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TODAY: STAGE

Biko's Killers Ask for Amnesty

5 Ex-Policemen Admit Slaying Apartheid Foe in '77

By Lynne Duke
Washington Post Service

PORT ELIZABETH, South Africa — In an extraordinary series of breakthroughs for the panel known as South Africa's truth commission, the killers of Steve Biko and at least nine other anti-apartheid activists were identified Tuesday for the first time.

Five apartheid-era security police officers, whose names had been linked for years to Mr. Biko's death in 1977, have confessed to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission in broad terms about their role in a string of killings in the Eastern Cape region.

The killers want an amnesty and national forgiveness for the abuses they committed in the name of white-minority rule, including the brutal beating of Mr. Biko, who was 30 when he died. After the beating, Mr. Biko was dumped naked into the back of a police truck for a 1,200-kilometer road trip to a prison in Pretoria. A few hours after arriving there, "he died a miserable and lonely death on a mat on a stone floor in a prison cell," his family's lawyer told an inconclusive inquest nearly 20 years ago.

[Francois van der Merwe, a lawyer in Port Elizabeth who represents several former policemen, told The Associated Press that five of his clients admitted having assaulted Mr. Biko and were applying for amnesty. They are Colonel Harold Snyman, who led the team that interrogated Mr. Biko; Lieutenant Colonel Gideon Niewoudt, a detective sergeant at the time; Ruben Marx, a warrant officer; Daantjie Siebert, a captain; and Johan Beneke, a warrant officer.]

Mr. Biko's death sparked global outrage and became a rallying cry for the black struggle.

While Mr. Biko's is the best-known internationally of the newly revealed cases, the others also represent some of the worst atrocities of white-minority rule, when security officials acting in concert with the political culture of the day attempted to squelch black dissent.

Apartheid ended in 1994 with South Africa's first all-race election, when Nelson Mandela became president and made reconciliation between blacks and whites a centerpiece of his new government. South Africa's new multiracial Parliament passed legislation

Reuters

Steve Biko, whose killers have been identified 20 years after his death.

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Algeria Union Chief Dies in Attack

Wahab Hebbal/The Associated Press

The slain bodyguard of Abdelhaq Benhamouda, the union leader who was killed in the assault by a gunman Tuesday in Algiers. Page 10.

President Defends U.S. Policy On Beijing

He Says Engagement Will One Day Bring A 'Berlin Wall' Effect

By Brian Knowlton
International Herald Tribune

WASHINGTON — President Bill Clinton on Tuesday defended his policy of "constructive engagement" with China, despite a draft State Department report saying that Beijing has eliminated virtually the entire dissident movement.

Mr. Clinton said that economic change and a freer exchange of information in China would produce the same sort of effervescence and rising expectations there that helped bring down the Berlin Wall in Europe.

"I believe that the impulses of the society and the nature of the economic changes will work together, along with the availability of information from the outside world, to increase the spirit of liberty over time," Mr. Clinton said.

That trend, he said, is "inevitable, just as the Berlin Wall fell."

Mr. Clinton, in the first news conference of his second term, also made one of his strongest statements to date on the future of Hong Kong, saying he was "concerned" about events to erode civil rights there and that it was plainly in Beijing's interests to maintain the people's freedoms once the British colony reverts to Chinese control on July 1.

Domestic issues dominated the 55-minute session in the White House's East Room. But one reporter asked Mr. Clinton whether the State Department's expected conclusion, in an annual human rights report to be released Thursday, did not signal the failure of his policy of constructive engagement.

That policy holds that the U.S.-Chinese relationship is too important to allow disagreement on any single issue, such as human rights, to disrupt it.

"We have not made the progress in human rights that I think — that I had hoped to make, yes," he said. "But it does not mean that if we had followed a policy of isolating ourselves from China when no one else in the world was prepared to do that, that we would have gotten better results.

Clinton says his meetings with donors were proper. **Page 3.**

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New Riddles in Assad's Damascus

A Crackdown on Corruption or Maneuvering for the Succession?

By Douglas Jehl
New York Times Service

DAMASCUS — The Syrian capital can seem a nest of riddles, and what has befallen the Orchid restaurant may be merely where the puzzle starts.

A committee descended on the elegant French spot one day in November to shut it down, and it has remained so ever since, with a dangling door-tag signed "Corruption-fighting section, Ministry of Supply."

What most intrigues its patrons is that the restaurant is owned by a nephew of Hafez Assad, the Syrian president. People who have begun to piece together other developments have begun to wonder what is going on.

One of Mr. Assad's brothers, Jemil, has departed abruptly for Paris, where another brother, Rifaat, spent part of a long exile. Rifaat Assad, now back in Damascus and officially still a vice president, is reported by foreign diplomats and prominent Syrians to be under heavy surveillance.

At the same time, Bashar Assad, 31, the president's eldest surviving son, has been newly christened on posters that have emerged around the capital as "our hope" for Syria's future.

Together with a bomb that exploded on a Syrian bus on New Year's Eve, killing 11 people but not announced by the Syrian media until two days later, and the fact that Mr. Assad had not been seen in public until Tuesday, the signs of maneuvering within the upper ranks of Mr. Assad's regime have created a mood of unease. "Things feel very fragile," a diplomat said.

The owner of the star-crossed restaurant was one of Rifaat Assad's sons, yet he was just the first among the relatives of top Syrian officials whose business activities have been unceremoniously reined in.

When asked, Syrian officials have said that Jemil Assad is undergoing medical treatment, that Rifaat Assad may move about as he likes and that the Orchid and other shuttered enterprises were guilty of unspecified irregularities. But the diplomats and some prominent Syrians say they believe that something else may be in the works.

With President Assad now 66 and recovering from prostate surgery, they say, he may be trying both to clean house and to clear the way for a suc-

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Seoul Pulls Out All Stops To Contain Loan Scandal

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

SEOUL — The loan investigation involving Hanbo Group intensified Tuesday as prosecutors raided the offices of the South Korean conglomerate, and President Kim Young Sam canceled a European tour to focus on the domestic troubles.

The central bank also took steps to support the company's creditors in an effort to contain the country's biggest bankruptcy in more than a decade, and the Justice Ministry announced it was prohibiting more bankers who had extended loans to the company from traveling abroad.

Hanbo's flagship, Hanbo Steel & General Construction Co., which defaulted on debt payments last week, borrowed 5 trillion won ($5.84 billion), about 20 times its net worth, mainly to finance a huge expansion project. The group's trading arm, Hanbo Corp., also sought court protection, and two other units are scheduled to follow.

The political opposition has called the loan crisis the biggest financial irregularity in the country's history, and it has emerged as a major political problem for Mr. Kim in an election year.

"President Kim planned to visit Hungary, Poland, Turkey and Italy in early March but this plan has been indefinitely postponed," a presidential spokesman said Tuesday.

A day earlier, Mr. Kim ordered an investigation into $5.9 billion of loans funneled to Hanbo's shaky steelmaking unit after the opposition said the loans must have involved government favors.

The police took more than 40 boxes of documents from Hanbo affiliates.

In addition, "the government today imposed an overseas travel ban on a further 17 people, including the heads of the four banks, over the Hanbo investigation," a Justice Ministry official said.

The banks are Korea First Bank, Cho Hung Bank, Korea Exchange Bank and Korea Development Bank, which have

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Playing 'Safe,' Investors Rush Into Index Funds

By Edward Wyatt
New York Times Service

NEW YORK — Once upon a time, most American investors chose their own stocks, one at a time. More recently, they asked mutual-fund managers to do the picking for them.

Now, as the longest bull market in history continues, many are deciding that they no longer need an expert to find the best investments. Instead, they are investing in mutual funds whose sole purpose is to mimic the performance of the stock market.

Known as index funds, these funds simply hold shares in all the companies that make up a popular stock-market index — for example, the 500 stocks in the Standard & Poor's 500 index, which, after the Dow Jones industrial average, is the most widely followed market barometer. In essence, these funds run on autopilot, giving up the chance to do any better than the market average but also guaranteeing that, except for the nominal cost of running the fund, they will do no worse.

The ascendancy of index funds has come as many Americans, exuberant over the winning performance of the stock market, are convinced that all that is required to make money is to be in the market — period.

"Everybody remembers that the market went up 23 percent last year and 37 percent the year before that," said John J. Brennan, president of Vanguard Group, America's second-largest mutual-fund company. "When the market goes down 100 points in a day, it's quickly forgotten."

But even the people who sell index funds say many investors appear to be full of misconceptions about the relative safety of their investments. Most notably, some novices have apparently mistaken the certainty that an index fund will match the market average for an assurance that it is almost risk-free. In doing so, they have confused the diversification of their assets across a

The Dollar		
New York	Tuesday close	previous close
DM	1.6474	1.6473
Pound	1.617	1.6222
Yen	121.025	119.575
FF	5.557	5.5473

The Dow		
	Tuesday close	previous close
-4.61	6656.08	6660.69

S&P 500		
change	Tuesday close	previous close
Unch.	765.02	765.02

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In Wales, Doubts on Foreign Investment

By Erik Ipsen
International Herald Tribune

CARDIFF, Wales — Prime Minister John Major will sink a silver-plated spade into the thin Welsh soil near here Wednesday, officially breaking ground for what is said to be the largest foreign investment Europe has ever seen — the new $2.75 billion manufacturing base for LG Group of South Korea.

Yet, even before the official celebrations have begun, many in Wales are already fretting about the hangover.

Rather than representing the brave new future of Wales, some observers say the LG investment may be the last of a breed.

It is an investment dinosaur, many officials and economists now feel, that is simply too big, too expensive and too geared to manufacturing to usher in true prosperity. After years of fighting the ill effects of industrial decline — the endless stream of shuttered steel mills and abandoned coal mines — by luring new, modern industries from abroad to take their places and hire their workers, Wales has begun to shift its strategy.

It is doing so at the very moment when its success with LG Group and others is being hailed as a model for the rest of Europe.

Underlying that shift is the growing realization that while foreign-owned manufacturing plants have brought the region jobs, they have failed to deliver real affluence.

For that Wales has now turned its sights on luring higher paid, higher skilled service-sector jobs.

It is a change of strategy that offers lessons for other hard-pressed regions from Eastern Germany to the emerging markets of East Asia as they struggle to harness foreign capital to their own domestic agendas.

Twenty-one years ago, when the Welsh Development Agency was set up to snare investment, the principality suffered from 14 percent unemployment—from a coal industry that alone has shed more than 200,000 jobs since World War II. Today after £8 billion ($13 billion) in foreign funding has sprung to life on Welsh soil as semiconductor plants and factories for auto parts, unemployment has been nearly halved to 7.4 percent.

Along the way the Welsh have fulfilled one of their most cherished aims: closing a gap in their joblessness rate relative to Britain's as a whole that stood at 3 percentage points for decades.

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AGENDA

Clinton Says Summit Is On

President Bill Clinton said Tuesday he had received no indication from Moscow that his summit meeting with President Boris Yeltsin of Russia, scheduled for March, would not take place.

Earlier, senior U.S. officials admitted to increasing concern about Mr. Yeltsin's health. On Monday, the White House said it could not be sure that the meeting would take place as planned. Page 4.

Simpson Civil Case Is Given to Jury

SANTA MONICA, California (Reuters) — The O.J. Simpson civil case was turned over to the jury Tuesday to decide if the former football star was responsible for the wrongful deaths of his former wife, Nicole Brown Simpson, and her friend Ronald Goldman.

Judge Hiroshi Fujisaki told the panel, composed of seven women and five men, to disregard Mr. Simpson's acquittal of murder charges in his 1995 criminal trial and a recent family court ruling giving him custody of the two young children he had with his slain former wife.

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Newsstand Prices			
Andorra	10.00 FF	Lebanon	LL 3,000
Antilles	12.50 FF	Morocco	16 Dh
Cameroon	1,600 CFA	Qatar	10.00 Riels
Egypt	£E 5.50	Réunion	12.50 FF
France	10.00 FF	Saudi Arabia	10.00 R.
Gabon	1100 CFA	Senegal	1,100 CFA
Greece	350 Dr.	Spain	225 PTAS
Italy	2,800 Lire	Tunisia	1,250 Dm
Ivory Coast	1,250 CFA	U.A.E.	10.00 Dirh
Jordan	1,250 JD	U.S. Mil. (Eur.)	$1.20

As Pakistani Vote Nears, Corruption Charges Lead Most Tickets

Amid Public Cynicism, Election May Not Even Be Held

By Kenneth J. Cooper
Washington Post Service

LAHORE, Pakistan — In the year that Pakistan celebrates the 50th anniversary of its independence, these are the main candidates for prime minister in the election scheduled next week: two former prime ministers who have been accused of corruption and a former cricket star who has never voted.

And the election may not even be held.

Many voters may not care, given their choices. They have grown disgusted with three successive elected parliaments that have not delivered job growth or clean government in a poor country that was rated last year as the world's second-most corrupt by Transparency International, a group devoted to fighting business corruption. (Nigeria was first.)

Analysts predict that widespread public cynicism about government will reduce voter turnout to about 25 percent, down from the historical average of 42 percent.

"The people in Pakistan have lost faith in these politicians," said Arif Habib, president of the Karachi Stock Exchange, the nation's largest stock market. "They have lost confidence in them, mainly because of these corrupt practices."

The parliamentary election scheduled Monday would be the fourth since 1988, when Benazir Bhutto led a successful movement to restore democracy in a country ruled by military leaders for half of its existence.

Miss Bhutto's second term as prime minister ended after three years when President Farooq Leghari dismissed her government on Nov. 5 for corruption and abuse of power. Under the constitution, a new parliamentary election has to be held within three months of his order.

But Miss Bhutto has challenged the grounds for her dismissal under a 1985 constitutional amendment that was written by the last military government, fueling speculation that the Supreme Court, when it rules on her appeal this week, might cancel the election and reinstall her government. If not, she is the candidate of her party.

Legal precedents suggest that the court's decision could go either way.

The justices have upheld the constitutional amendment that authorizes a president, who is elect-

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Muzammil Pasha/Reuters

Nawaz Sharif, a candidate for prime minister in Pakistan, waving to supporters at a rally.

Australia's Call of the Wild? / **Eradicate the Cat**

A Crusade to Wipe Out a Voracious Interloper

By Seth Mydans
New York Times Service

SYDNEY — As if in some B-movie thriller, people here are raising a hue and cry about an alien predator that is spreading out of control across the land: a plague of millions of killer house cats run wild.

Interlopers on this isolated island continent like the settlers who brought them here 200 years ago, stray cats have multiplied through Australia's deserts, forests and urban alleys, driving indigenous species to extinction as they go.

Without any natural enemies to keep them in check as on other continents, perhaps 12 million wild cats have been killing small creatures whose evolution has not taught them that cats are their enemy.

Extinct already, or living only in zoos, are the pig-footed bandicoot, the brush-tailed bettong, the rufous hare-wallaby and a dozen other birds and marsupial species that were found nowhere else on earth.

Scores of other species are endangered, wildlife specialists say, including woylies, boodies, numbats and the potoroo.

Conservationists have been warning for years about this feline colonization, but lately their cause has been taken up in a nationwide alarm that is being met with anguished opposition from cat lovers.

"I am calling for the total eradication of cats in Australia," proclaimed Richard Evans, a member of Parliament, putting the issue on the national agenda last October.

"Cats are responsible for 39 species being either extinct, locally extinct or near extinct in Australia," Mr. Evans said the other day.

Domestic cats each kill an estimated 25 native animals a year, and wild cats kill as many as 1,000 a year, according to the National Parks and Wildlife Service.

THOUGH he now says a cat-free continent may be beyond reach, Mr. Evans drew wide support with his proposal to kill all cats by 2020 by neutering pets and spreading fatal feline diseases in the wild.

The proposal recalls a partly successful attempt earlier in the century to eliminate rabbits, another species imported to Australia, with a virus popularly known as white blindness. By the thousands, dying rabbits staggered onto highways and were hit by cars, causing widespread alarm.

The rabbits, however, were mostly a threat to crops. But with the perception that the survival of the native fauna is at stake, a hatred of cats has swept the nation, causing some owners to keep their pets at home to avoid vigilantes.

Hugh Wirth, the national president of the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, said that "75 percent of Australians view cats as virtually as distasteful as Lucifer himself."

One local journalist told a visitor: "Do Australia a favor: kill a cat. What do you want? Do you want cats or do you want koalas?"

Not everyone is enthusiastic about the anti-cat campaign. Leo Oosterweghel, director of the Royal Melbourne Zoological Gardens, agreed with Mr. Evans that cats must go. But he said he was concerned that the demonizing of cats was leading to a rise in cruelty toward them.

"In Queensland, people were getting out golf sticks and hitting them," he said. "It became a sport."

In the tropical Northern Territory, where annual flooding flushes wild cats up into the branches of trees, park rangers go out in boats at night and shoot them by the thousands.

"They flash their floodlights down the rivers and the eyes of the cats light up like Christmas trees," Mr. Evans said.

Members of the Cat Protection Society have protested the anti-cat campaign and the RSPCA called Mr. Evans's proposals "outrageous and unnecessary."

Responsible pet ownership and government regulation can solve the problem better than mass killings, which only create a temporary dip in cat population, Mr. Wirth said.

In 1991, the shire of Sherbrooke in the state of Victoria was the first local government to introduce a cat-control law, including prohibiting owners from letting their pets outdoors, and it has slowed the killing of endangered lyrebirds.

A LEADER of the anti-cat crusade is John Walmsley, a conservationist who once publicized his cause by wearing a cat skin on his head like a coonskin cap, its small flat face looking out over his forehead.

"The biggest problem with wildlife we have in Australia is domestic cats," he said. Mr. Walmsley, who runs the Warrawong Sanctuary in South Australia, said he wants people to love Australia's indigenous animals as much as they love cats, and has been trying — without great success — to persuade Australians to adopt a variety of marsupials as pets.

"The bandicoot makes an absolutely delightful pet," he said. "It is the marsupial rat, I suppose. You can house-train them and they'll eat the mice in your house.

"The quoll makes a wonderful pet. It filled the niche of the cat before the cat came to Australia. The quoll will eat your mice and you can put it out at night.

"The most wonderful pet of all is the platypus," he said with an enthusiasm few others seem to share. "How else can I explain it? They are charming, absolutely delightful. I don't know why Australians don't have platypuses as pets."

OPTIONS

Tasmanian Devil: Australian For Cat?

In light of an Australian proposal to rid the country of cats, here are some native alternative pets.

	SOUTHERN BROWN BANDICOOT *Isoodon obesulus*	TASMANIAN DEVIL *Sarcophilus harrisii*	TAMMAR WALLABY *Macropus eugenii*
SIZE	16.7 inches tall	33.5 inches long including tail	3.3 feet long including tail
WEIGHT	7 pounds	17.6 pounds	14.3 pounds
LIFESPAN	7 years	8 years	10 years
CHARACTER	Inquisitive, tough. Will sit in a lap.	Tough, suitable substitute for pit bull terrier.	Attractive. Not suitable to house train. Will demand to be fed.
POSSIBLE NAMES	Brownie, Bandy	Fang, Lucifer	Wally, Skippy

Sources: John Walmsley, Warrawong Sanctuary, South Australia; Australian Marsupials and other Native Mammals

The New York Times

U.S. Would Open Wallet To a Post-Castro Cuba

By Nick Madigan
Washington Post Service

MIAMI — Cuba can expect to receive substantial amounts of aid from the international community, including the United States, to promote its transition to democracy once President Fidel Castro is no longer in power, according to a Clinton administration report.

The administration was required to prepare the report, "Support for a Democratic Transition in Cuba," by last year's Helms-Burton Act, which imposes U.S. sanctions against foreign companies operating in Cuba with the assets of U.S. citizens that were appropriated by the Communist government.

The report, which was drafted for release Tuesday by the Agency for International Development with input from other agencies, says the administration will suspend long-standing trade sanctions and begin normalizing relations with Cuba after it becomes apparent that a transition government is in place and is committed to democracy.

The report estimates that the first six years of post-Castro transition would cost between $4 billion and $8 billion, with the "predominant" share coming from the United States, and the rest from international financial institutions, multilateral organizations and other governments.

Mr. Castro, who will be 70 in August, has been in power since 1959. Cuba's regime is the last nonelected government in the hemisphere.

"The United States doesn't want to punish the Cuban people," said Representative Robert Menendez, Democrat of New Jersey. "On the contrary, it's in solidarity with them. It wants to help them."

As soon as the Cuban authorities release political prisoners and call for internationally supervised elections within 18 months, "then we will begin to provide developmental assistance and maybe even some military adjustment assistance," Mr. Menendez said. The Cuban Army, he said, "is way bigger than it needs to be."

The report predicts that once a democratic government is in place, the United States will begin negotiations to either return the U.S. naval base at Guantanamo to Cuba or renegotiate its presence there, at the southeastern tip of the island. The report also envisions U.S. assistance in the restoration of human rights, establishment of a modern judicial system and a democratic legislature and the rebuilding of Cuba's dilapidated infrastructure.

"Cubans, like the other peoples of this hemisphere, of Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union, desire to be free," President Bill Clinton wrote in the foreword of the 23-page document. "The United States is committed to help the Cuban people in a transition to democracy."

An administration official, who asked not to be named, said the report would serve as reassurance to Cubans that they face "a less frightening transition than they've been led to believe." The report's contents, he said, would be broadcast to Cubans in an intense campaign over Radio Marti, the U.S. government's propaganda outlet aimed at Cuba.

Greeks Oppose U.S. Mediation

The Associated Press

ATHENS — A majority of Greeks mistrust efforts by the United States to solve problems with Turkey and instead prefer mediation by the European Union, a poll said Tuesday.

According to the poll, published in the pro-government Athens daily Ta Nea, 68.9 percent of those surveyed opposed U.S. mediation to resolve disputes with Turkey, while 70.9 percent favored the EU.

On the problem of the division of Cyprus, 57.6 percent were against U.S. mediation in the dispute and were "absolutely opposed" to an American initiative to solve it. The island has been split into Greek and Turkish sectors since 1974.

Carried out by Project Research Consulting in Athens, the poll was based on interviews with 986 people over the age of 18. It has a 3 percent margin of error.

President Bill Clinton has pledged an initiative later this year to try and solve the dispute over Cyprus. A solution to the problem is seen as a first step toward settling longstanding differences between the two North Atlantic Treaty Organization allies.

Although the two allies have twice come to the brink of war in the last decade over territorial disputes, 45 percent of those surveyed were against talks or negotiations between Greece and Turkey.

Tensions also have been running high following Cyprus's recent decision to buy long-range Russian missiles.

Pollsters say the survey reflects a resurgence of anti-Americanism among Greeks.

Castro and the Pope: More Than a Symbol in Cuba

By Douglas Farah
Washington Post Service

PARRAGA, Cuba — The Reverend Oscar Perez surveyed his parish church with obvious pride, as dozens of people sat in small groups to discuss the Bible before breaking up to attend the Mass he was about to celebrate.

"Our situation has changed from one of a certain degree of confrontation with the state to being much more open," the Roman Catholic priest said, sitting on a bare wooden pew, amid the cacophony of voices in the Bible classes. "Things have changed enormously. Everyone used to try to hide their faith. Now you can see they practice it openly."

After decades of hostility, relations between the Roman Catholic Church and Cuba's government are undergoing the most profound change since Fidel Castro came to power in 1959. Church workers and diplomats say a new tolerance for religious activity and social programs represents the most likely means in 36 years of introducing elements of change in the rigid Marxist system.

Nothing symbolized the change in relations more graphically than Mr. Castro's Nov. 19 audience with Pope John Paul II at the Vatican and the decision to allow the pontiff to visit the island in January 1998.

"The government is taking a calculated risk," said an academic close to the church. "With the opening and the papal visit, the government gains legitimacy and further isolates U.S. policy. The Pope gets more space for the church and perhaps a chance for the church to play a role in a political transition here. Fundamental to the government's position is understanding the church will never seek direct political power."

After suffering an economic crisis following the collapse of the Soviet bloc in 1989, Cuba is regaining its footing, although the recuperation is slow. But the improvements have given the government more confidence that the Pope's visit will not be a spark for social turmoil.

"Two years ago, the visit would have been a real risk," a Latin American diplomat said. "Now the risk is acceptable."

Diplomats and government officials say the papal visit offers Mr. Castro a potential payoff. The pontiff has spoken out strongly against the 34-year U.S. economic embargo against the island and recent measures such as the Helms-Burton Act, which strengthen and broaden it.

"The visit will help delegitimize the Miami Cubans who always portrayed themselves as the good Catholics fighting evil Marxism, and who are the ones who most strongly support the embargo," a European diplomat said.

A senior government official, calling Helms-Burton — which seeks to penalize companies that do business with Cuba — "an act of war," said: "Any allies we have in that war are welcome, and the Pope has been outspoken on that." Thus, he added, Cuba and the Pope are in accord on this.

The church is a growing power, not only because of its surging membership but also because it is providing medical and food aid. Caritas, the Catholic charity operating here since 1992, has distributed about $7 million in aid during each of the last two years. Much of the aid is in medical supplies that help keep the nation's vaunted health care program from fraying further.

In Father Perez's church on the outskirts of Havana, in a working-class neighborhood, 70 people are taking classes in preparation for their first Communion, and the pews are almost always full — something Father Perez said was unthinkable just a year ago.

According to Catholic Church statistics, there were about 25,000 baptisms in Havana in 1989. In 1995, there were almost 36,000.

Orlando Marquez, editor of Palabra Nueva, the publication of the archdiocese of Havana, attributed the church's growth to "disappointment and disenchantment" of many people during hard times.

"People are looking for spiritual rather than material solutions," Mr. Marquez said. "They have found the materialist offerings of socialism do not satisfy fully."

There are several clear indications of the thaw in relations. Many church leaders went into exile after 1961, when Mr. Castro declared Cuba a Marxist-Leninist — and therefore atheist — state.

In the 1960s, according to Shawn Malone, associate director of the Georgetown University Cuba Project, "individual clergy were persecuted, religious services were obstructed or disrupted, church property was vandalized, educational and occupational access for believers was restricted, and, for a brief period in the 1960s, 'reeducation camps' grouped priests with prostitutes, criminals and other 'antisocial elements.'"

But the attitude of the state gradually changed. In 1992, as church attendance was climbing and the economic situation deteriorating, the constitution was amended so Cuba was defined as a secular, not Marxist, state, and it was declared that religious believers could also be party members.

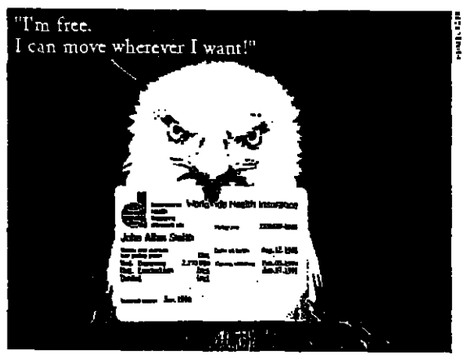
Still, in recent years, confrontations had occurred. That has largely vanished since Mr. Castro's papal audience.

Church leaders said they are wary but optimistic that the changes will be long-lived, that the door opened will not be so easy to shut.

Jorge Rey/The Washington Post

The Reverend Oscar Perez, baptizing a girl in his church in Parraga, says the openness of religious practice in Cuba has "changed enormously."

"I'm free.
I can move wherever I want!"



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29.01

TRAVEL UPDATE

Strike to Halt Many French Trains

PARIS (Reuters) — France's state railroad company said Tuesday that a 36-hour strike could disrupt up to two-thirds of train services starting Wednesday evening.

The SNCF said Eurostar service between Paris and London and high-speed service to Belgium should be normal, but that French intercity service could be reduced by 30 to 70 percent during the strike, from 9 P.M. Wednesday to 9 A.M. Friday.

The Communist-led CGT and Socialist-led CFDT unions assert that jobs would be at risk under a government plan to turn over SNCF debt, as well as ownership of the rail network, to a new state holding company.

5 Airlines Said to Seek Iraq Flights

BAGHDAD (AFP) — Five European and Arab airlines have asked the UN sanctions committee for permission to resume flights to Baghdad to deliver supplies under the oil-for-food deal, an Iraqi airline official said Tuesday.

The airlines told Iraqi Airways they were ready to resume flights after a six-year ban, the head of the airline, Rahib Mohammed Saleh, told the newspaper Al Jumhuriyah.

He did not name the airlines.

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Turk-Georgian Rail Link

Agence France-Presse

ANKARA — Turkey and its neighbor Georgia have reached an agreement to build a rail line to link the two countries, the Anatolian News Agency said Tuesday. It said the line would be constructed between the Turkish border town of Kars and the Georgian capital, Tbilisi.

WEATHER

Forecast for Thursday through Saturday, as provided by AccuWeather.

Jetstream — Unseasonably Cold — Unseasonably Mild — Heavy Rain — Heavy Snow

North America
Cold air will cover the Great Lakes into the Northeast and mid-Atlantic into Saturday. A large winter storm could affect much of the East Thursday, followed by a brief cold shot in the Southeast Friday. The Southwest and southern Rockies will be mild and dry.

Europe
The cold air will retreat from eastern Europe Thursday, though cold air may hold on a bit longer in southeastern Europe and Turkey. The rest of Europe will have near- to above-normal temperatures; however, Paris and Munich will stay rather chilly into Friday.

Asia
Northeastern China, including Beijing, and South Korea, including Seoul, will be rather mild Thursday through Saturday. Manchuria will be very cold into Friday, then the cold air will overspread northern Japan. Southern Japan will be cool to chilly. Seasonable in Hong Kong.

Europe

	Today High	Today Low	Tomorrow High	Tomorrow Low
Algarve	14/57	12/53 r	17/62	11/52 sh
Amsterdam	7/44	2/35 c	7/44	3/37 pc
Ankara	-1/31	-1/47 pc	-5/24	-13/9 c
Athens	11/52	3/37 s	7/44	2/35 pc
Barcelona	11/52	5/41 c	11/52	6/43 c
Belgrade	-1/31	-6/18 c	2/35	-3/27 c
Berlin	0/32	-3/27 c	7/44	2/35 c
Brussels	6/43	2/35 c	7/44	3/37 pc
Budapest	-1/31	-4/25 pc	1/34	-2/29 c
Copenhagen	6/43	2/35 pc	6/43	2/35 pc
Costa Del Sol	13/55	11/52 r	17/62	10/50 sh
Dublin	6/48	3/37 pc	8/48	4/39 pc
Edinburgh	7/44	2/35 pc	7/44	3/37 c
Florence	9/48	-1/31 pc	7/44	0/32 s
Frankfurt	3/37	-2/29 pc	4/39	-1/31 pc
Geneva	7/44	-1/31 s	6/43	-1/31 pc
Helsinki	-2/29	-3/27 sn	4/39	-6/18 c
Istanbul	1/34	-2/29 c	3/37	1/34 s
Las Palmas	23/73	18/64 s	22/71	18/64 c
Lisbon	11/52	11/52 r	14/57	11/52 sh
London	8/48	3/37 pc	10/50	5/41 sh
Madrid	13/55	4/39 s	12/53	2/35 pc
Mallorca	9/48	8/43 c	9/48	7/44 c
Milan	7/44	-1/31 pc	6/43	-1/31 pc
Moscow	-6/22	-13/9 sn	-9/16	-9/16 c
Munich	3/37	-4/25 pc	5/41	-3/27 s
Nice	12/53	4/39 c	11/52	4/39 pc
Oslo	5/41	1/34 c	6/43	-1/31 s
Paris	6/43	1/34 pc	6/43	1/34 pc
Prague	2/35	-4/25 pc	3/37	-3/27 pc
Reykjavik	5/41	-5/24 c	-2/29	-3/27 pc
Roma	13/55	5/41 pc	12/53	4/39 pc
St. Petersburg	-7/20	-8/18 pc	2/35	-3/27 sn
Stockholm	4/39	1/34 c	6/43	-6/22 pc
Strasbourg	4/39	-1/31 pc	6/43	1/34 pc
Tallinn	-2/29	-3/27 sn	4/39	-7/20 c
Venice	7/44	-2/29 pc	7/44	-1/31 pc
Vienna	0/32	-3/27 c	4/39	-1/31 s
Warsaw	-6/22	-10/15 pc	2/35	-2/29 s
Zurich	4/39	-1/31 s	6/43	-1/31 c

Middle East

	Today High	Today Low	Tomorrow High	Tomorrow Low
Abu Dhabi	24/75	14/57 s	24/75	16/61 s
Beirut	14/57	7/44 s	13/55	4/39 r
Cairo	17/62	7/44 pc	18/61	8/43 pc
Damascus	9/48	-1/31 s	9/48	-1/31 pc
Jerusalem	9/48	1/34 s	9/48	0/32 pc
Luxor	23/73	3/37 s	23/73	1/34 s
Riyadh	23/73	13/55 pc	25/77	12/53 s

Asia

	Today High	Today Low	Tomorrow High	Tomorrow Low
Bali	33/91	24/75 s	33/91	24/75 pc
Bangkok	32/89	21/70 pc	32/89	22/71 pc
Beijing	6/43	-3/27 s	7/44	-2/29 s
Bombay	31/88	17/62 s	29/84	15/61 s
Calcutta	28/79	11/52 s	29/79	12/53 s
Chiang Mai	32/89	19/66 pc	32/89	21/70 pc
Colombo	29/84	21/70 pc	29/84	22/71 pc
Hanoi	23/73	18/61 s	25/77	17/62 pc
Ho Chi Minh	33/91	21/70 s	33/91	22/71 s
Hong Kong	21/70	16/59 s	21/70	16/61 pc
Islamabad	30/86	4/39 pc	19/66	5/41 sh
Jakarta	30/86	24/75 c	30/86	24/75 c
Karachi	24/75	9/48 s	25/77	11/52 s
K. Lumpur	32/89	23/73 pc	33/89	23/73 pc
K. Kinabalu	30/86	24/75 c	31/88	23/73 pc
Manila	30/86	21/70 pc	29/84	23/73 t
New Delhi	24/75	6/43 s	25/77	7/44 s
Phnom Penh	33/92	23/73 s	31/88	23/73 s
Phuket	32/89	21/70 pc	32/89	22/71 pc
Rangoon	32/89	21/70 pc	32/89	23/73 pc
Seoul	-1/31	-9/16 pc	0/32	-7/20 s
Shanghai	11/52	3/37 pc	9/48	6/46 sh
Singapore	31/88	24/75 c	31/88	24/75 pc
Taipei	20/68	14/57 s	22/71	18/64 sh
Tokyo	9/48	0/32 pc	5/41	-2/29 pc
Vientiane	28/73	17/62 s	29/71	16/61 pc

North America

	Today High	Today Low	Tomorrow High	Tomorrow Low
Anchorage	-1/31	-5/24 sn	1/34	-4/25 c
Atlanta	4/39	2/35 r	10/50	-1/31 c
Boston	0/32	-8/18 s	-2/29	-7/20 sn
Chicago	-7/20	-12/11 sn	-4/25	-13/9 c
Dallas	6/43	-4/25 s	8/48	-2/29 pc
Denver	1/34	-7/20 pc	6/48	-3/27 s
Detroit	-4/25	-13/11 pc	-2/29	-14/7 sn
Honolulu	26/82	21/70 sh	28/84	21/70 pc
Houston	8/48	2/35 pc	14/57	1/34 pc
Los Angeles	23/73	9/48 s	23/73	10/50 s
Miami	25/79	20/68 t	27/80	17/62 pc
Minneapolis	-12/11	-18/0 sn	-9/16	-15/5 pc
Montreal	-15/5	-24/-11 pc	-12/11	-18/0 s
Nassau	25/79	21/70 sh	27/80	17/62 pc
New York	1/34	-3/27 s	0/32	-9/22 sn
Orlando	21/70	14/57 c	23/73	11/52 c
Phoenix	22/71	9/48 s	23/73	12/53 s
San Fran.	17/62	8/48 pc	18/64	11/52 pc
Seattle	9/48	4/39 sh	11/52	6/43 c
Toronto	-9/16	-13/9 c	-9/16	-17/2 sn
Vancouver	7/44	-4/25 sh	10/50	7/44 sh
Washington	3/37	-4/25 pc	1/34	-4/25 pf

Asia
Northeastern China, including Beijing, and South Korea, including Seoul, will be rather mild Thursday through Saturday. Manchuria will be very cold into Friday, then the cold air will overspread northern Japan. Southern Japan will be cool to chilly. Seasonable in Hong Kong.

Africa

	Today High	Today Low	Tomorrow High	Tomorrow Low
Algiers	17/62	9/48 pc	15/61	7/44 sh
Cape Town	23/73	14/57 pc	24/75	13/55 s
Casablanca	21/70	11/52 pc	21/70	10/50 pc
Harare	31/88	8/46 s	32/89	9/48 s
Lagos	31/88	23/73 s	30/86	22/71 s
Nairobi	32/89	12/53 s	32/89	13/55 s
Tunis	14/57	8/46 c	13/55	8/41 sh

Latin America

	Today High	Today Low	Tomorrow High	Tomorrow Low
Buenos Aires	30/86	22/71 s	28/84	16/61 pc
Caracas	28/82	23/73 pc	27/80	22/71 c
Lima	27/80	21/70 pc	27/80	21/70 pc
Mexico City	18/64	3/37 pc	19/66	4/39 pc
Rio de Janeiro	30/86	24/75 sh	28/84	23/73 sh
Santiago	28/82	10/50 s	28/82	11/52 s

Oceania

	Today High	Today Low	Tomorrow High	Tomorrow Low
Auckland	21/70	13/55 s	21/70	14/57 s
Sydney	28/79	22/71 r	26/79	21/70 sh

Legend: s-sunny, pc-partly cloudy, c-cloudy, sh-showers, t-thunderstorms, r-rain, sf-snow flurries, sn-snow, Hce, W-Weather. All maps, forecasts and data provided by AccuWeather, Inc. © 1997

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THE AMERICAS

Clinton Defends His Dealings With Donors

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

WASHINGTON — In a press conference that alternated between grilling about campaign fund-raising and discussion of welfare and education policy, President Bill Clinton on Tuesday defended his participation in White House receptions with major Democratic donors and insisted that administration policy was not for sale.

"Nobody buys a guaranteed result — nor should they ever," Mr. Clinton said.

But Mr. Clinton said that "in retrospect" it was a mistake to have the nation's top banking regulator at a White House session with representatives of major banks because the meeting was arranged by the Democratic National Committee.

Mr. Clinton said, however, that there was nothing wrong with his attendance, or that of Treasury Secretary Robert Rubin's.

"I think it is an appropriate thing and can be a good thing for the president and for the secretary of Treasury to meet with a group of bankers and listen to them and listen to their concerns," Mr. Clinton said.

"I can tell you categorically that no decision ever came out of any of those coffees where I or anyone else said, 'This person's a contributor of ours; do what they ask us to do.'"

Attorney General Janet Reno is considering whether to appoint a special prosecutor to investigate Democratic National Committee fund-raising practices; Mr. Clinton said that was her decision to make and declined to answer when asked if he believed such an investigation was necessary.

The Senate Government Affairs Committee also is about to open an investigation of the matter, and Mr. Clinton said he had ordered all White House aides to cooperate. "I just want him to be fair," Mr. Clinton said of Senator Fred Thompson, the Tennessee Republican who leads the panel.

Mr. Clinton called the news conference to talk about the balanced budget proposal he will submit to Congress next week. Specifically, Mr. Clinton called on Congress to support the education spending proposals that were centerpiece items of his re-election campaign agenda.

But when Mr. Clinton opened the floor to questions, the education initiative was nearly forgotten as Mr. Clinton was peppered with questions about campaign fund-raising and several pressing foreign policy matters.

He took issue with a question about whether he had sold access to the White House for $250,000, but then acknowledged the costs of modern campaigns had invited excesses in fund-raising.

"What they got from me is a respectful hearing if they have some concern about the issues," Mr. Clinton said.

Among the questions raised by Republicans is whether Mr. Clinton changed his position on a major immigration measure last year after being pressed by major Asian-American donors to the Democratic National Committee and his re-election campaign.

Also, some have questioned whether fund-raising solicitations were made in the White House — which would be a violation of federal law. Many of those invited to the coffees with Clinton made big contributions to the party that same day, or soon afterward.

"There is no pattern or practice here of trying to push our system over the brink into corruption," Mr. Clinton said. "What happens is there is a race to get as much money as you can to keep from being buried by the other people and make sure you can get your message out. And at the edges errors are made."

Mr. Clinton was also asked about the mysterious hiring of former Associate Attorney General Webster Hubbell by the Lippo Group, an Indonesian banking conglomerate at the center of a good deal of the questionable Democratic fund-raising. Mr. Hubbell resigned after admitting he overbilled legal clients in Arkansas, and Whitewater prosecutors were seeking his cooperation at the time he took the job with Lippo.

Mr. Clinton said that he had no role in the hiring of Mr. Hubbell. *(NYT, AP)*

■ Seeking Tax Credits

Mr. Clinton, in keeping with a campaign promise, will soon ask Congress to provide tax credits to businesses that hire long-term welfare recipients, administration officials say, The New York Times reported.

But even before the proposal is formally made, critics have begun to express doubts about whether such credits will achieve their goal. Economists inside the government and at several universities said that similar credits in the past had provided a windfall to employers without significantly increasing the number of poor people hired.

Mr. Clinton will propose giving employers a credit equal to 50 percent of the first $10,000 in wages paid to long-term welfare recipients.

Lee Celano/The Associated Press

FLOOD — Residents of San Jose, California, rafting in the street after a storm.

Away From Politics

• **The Presbyterian Church** (U.S.A.) is trying to settle a debate over gay ministers with a proposal that anyone — homosexual or heterosexual — who has sex outside marriage and fails to repent is ineligible to be a minister or lay church officer. The church's regional divisions will vote on the proposal. *(WP)*

• **One-third of hospital patients** feel poorly prepared to go home, have trouble getting questions answered or feel they do not have enough input on their treatment, says a survey by the Picker Institute, a health care consumer research firm. *(AP)*

• **A former security guard,** Richard Jewell, sued The Atlanta Journal-Constitution and his former employer, saying they libeled him when he was identified as a suspect in the Olympic Park bombing. The suit names the newspaper, nine reporters and Piedmont College in Georgia *(AP)*

Volley in Fund-Raising War

Senator Vows to Chase White House Records to Courts

By David S. Broder
Washington Post Service

WASHINGTON — A Republican senator says he is planning a thorough investigation of the fund-raising practices of both parties and is prepared to go to court, if necessary, to force the release of White House records he says he needs for the job.

Fred Thompson, the Tennessee senator who is the new chairman of the Governmental Affairs Committee, has set no starting date for hearings on the politically sensitive issue. He promised a "strong look" at contributions from foreign sources and the whole pattern of relationships among donors, party operatives and executive branch officials.

"I'm trying to strike a tone that this will be handled with a firm hand, but fairly," Mr. Thompson said in an interview, "but a lot will depend on the cooperation we get."

Mr. Thompson, according to close associates, has no complaints so far about White House cooperation, and he is hopeful that he has convinced President Bill Clinton's second-term team that he is not seeking partisan advantage from the hearings.

But he will tell the Senate that in his view, Mr. Clinton and his legal counsel have in the past used spurious claims of both executive privilege and attorney-client privilege to impede congressional investigators or to deny them relevant materials. Sources said Mr. Thompson wanted the White House to have been forewarned of his readiness to fight the battle in the courts.

Mr. Thompson served as minority counsel of the special Senate committee that investigated the Watergate break-in and its cover-up by President Richard Nixon and his associates. Mr. Nixon sought to invoke executive privilege to prevent the release of Oval Office tapes, and when the Supreme Court rejected his plea, was forced to resign.

Among the examples of better cooperation Mr. Thompson will cite in a speech to the Senate on the issue are President Ronald Reagan's waiving executive privilege during the investigation of the Iran-contra affair and President Jimmy Carter's waiver when his brother Billy's relationship with the Libyan government was under investigation.

Partly because of his Watergate experience and partly because of his effectiveness on television, the Tennessee senator and former actor was chosen by Republican leaders to lead the major congressional investigation of the scandal over fund-raising by the Democratic National Committee in support of the Clinton-Gore re-election campaign.

Much of the controversy has focused on John Huang, a former vice chairman of the Democratic National Committee who solicited money primarily in the Asian-American community. Mr. Huang, who was an official in the Commerce Department before joining the committee, raised $3.4 million, at least $1 million of which has been deemed improper and returned to contributors.

He and others also arranged during the campaign for the president to meet with donors whose criminal records or other past activities the White House has acknowledged made them "inappropriate" guests.

The president has vowed to tighten the screening of guests and ordered a cleanup of fund-raising operations. But he has defended his custom of inviting big donors to White House meetings with him, Vice President Al Gore and other senior government officials.

Mr. Clinton has also complained that the Republicans were guilty of larger improprieties in the financing of their campaigns.

And the Senate minority leader, Thomas Daschle of South Dakota, asked Mr. Thompson last week to investigate reports that Republican congressional leaders had threatened retaliation against lobbyists and interest groups that gave money to both Democrats and Republicans.

The timing of the hearings is not known. Mr. Thompson still is hiring and getting security clearances for his investigative staff and finding space for them to work.

The Governmental Affairs Committee is scheduled to hold an organizational meeting Wednesday, but Mr. Thompson is expected to tell its members that it may be three or four months before the investigation is far enough along to justify the public hearings.

In related developments Monday:

• Democrats in the House will probably make sure that an ethics complaint against Newt Gingrich that died with the last Congress is renewed. The complaint to the House ethics committee that the House speaker received improper gifts, support and contributions from Gopac, a political action committee he once headed, officially lapsed when the 104th Congress went out of business on Jan. 3. If the new ethics committee does not vote to continue the matter, lawmakers would refile the complaint, aides to Democratic leaders said.

• Republicans in Congress demanded that a top banking regulator, Eugene Ludwig, turn over all documents relating to a White House meeting he attended last year with President Clinton, Democratic fund-raisers and 17 bank executives. Republicans also said they would put off confirmation hearings for Mr. Clinton's nominee for labor secretary, Alexis Herman, until she answered written questions about her role in White House fund-raising efforts.

POLITICAL NOTES

Delegating Control of Welfare

WASHINGTON — Only months after Congress turned control of welfare over to the states, legislatures around the United States are considering whether to hand off responsibility for the poor once again, this time to county and local governments.

Several states, including California, New York, Colorado, Ohio and North Carolina, are weighing proposals that could allow thousands of county commissioners, town supervisors or other local officials to make fundamental decisions about who should receive welfare, how soon they have to go to work and under what conditions.

If adopted, these proposals would deliver to local governments an unprecedented level of authority to design social policy, and in ways hardly envisioned by many of the federal lawmakers who voted for revolutionary welfare changes last year.

It could mean, for example, that a welfare mother with two young children could be forced to get a job in one county, but allowed to stay home and collect benefits if she moved a few miles across the county line. Or one county could provide child care while the next county did not.

But it also could bring much more flexibility: Inner cities with high unemployment could decide that it makes sense for them to spend more money on creating public service jobs, for example, while rural areas could spend that money on transportation for those who need to travel long distances to work.

State legislatures are convening this month to take up the issue of welfare for the first time since the federal law was passed, and it is unclear what the fate of these and other proposals will be. *(WP)*

Lott Assails Medicare Plan

WASHINGTON — The Senate majority leader, Trent Lott, adding his voice to others who have expressed criticism of President Bill Clinton's Medicare plan, said that the proposal to cut $138 billion from Medicare did not do enough to address the health insurance program's real financial problems.

The Mississippi Republican on Monday attacked the Clinton plan on several fronts and argued that the administration continued to "duck" the politically difficult fact that the people getting the benefits "are going to have to bear more of the cost" eventually.

Other Republican lawmakers, and even some Democrats, have questioned Mr. Clinton's plan to cut the growth in Medicare after an initially favorable reaction when the plan was introduced last week.

An agreement on cutting Medicare is crucial to balancing the budget because Medicare spends more than $200 billion a year and is growing rapidly. It is one of the few federal programs from which large budget savings are potentially available.

Reducing the growth is also crucial to the survival of the program itself, the mainstay of health care for 37 million elderly and disabled Americans, because the program's hospital trust fund faces insolvency in 2001. *(WP)*

Quote / Unquote

Nicholas Burns, the U.S. State Department spokesman, responding to a question about talks with North Korea: "You might want to consult the North Korean Web site. They've got their own home page now. If they're really efficient like we are here at the State Department, maybe their spokesman's briefing transcripts are on the Web right now." *(IHT)*

Cosby, Back at Work, Grieves 'With Dignity'

By Lawrie Mifflin
New York Times Service

NEW YORK — In a two-and-a-half hour interview with the CBS anchorman Dan Rather, Bill Cosby spoke of his family's anguish at the roadside killing of his son and said that he and his wife wanted to be able to grieve with dignity.

The interview took place Sunday, the day after Mr. Cosby returned to New York from his family's home in western Massachusetts, and one day before he was to resume the taping of his CBS television show "Cosby." Parts of the interview were broadcast Sunday night and Monday morning.

Mr. Cosby described his son's burial last week, in an herb garden on the property. He said 10 or 11 friends and family members joined hands and carried the coffin down a snowy hill, "and I set the coffin down over the hole, and I said, 'We now want to give praise to God for allowing us to know him — not for giving him to us, but just letting us know him.'"

Ennis Cosby was shot in the head after he pulled his Mercedes-Benz convertible off a Los Angeles freeway to fix a flat tire Jan. 16. The police have speculated that the attacker may have had robbery in mind, but apparently nothing was taken.

Mr. Rather said Mr. Cosby, who is one of the best-known and wealthiest entertainers in the world, talked repeatedly of his desire to see his family's tragedy, and his son's memory, treated with dignity.

"He must have used that word two dozen times or more," Mr. Rather said. "This man is hurting. He is really hurting. But he is determined to get past it, and it would be impossible to overstate his determination that he and his family be able to grieve with dignity, in keeping with his son's memory."

The interview of the leading entertainer by the leading newsman of CBS took place in Mr. Cosby's office at Kaufman Astoria Studios in Queens, New York. Mr. Cosby also admitted to having had a brief affair 20 years ago with a woman whose daughter claimed last week that Mr. Cosby was her father.

He told Mr. Rather that he was sure he was not the father of the woman, Autumn Jackson, who was indicted on extortion charges last week after she demanded $24 million for not taking her story to tabloid newspapers.

Mr. Cosby also spoke about his wife's grief, his acquaintance with the friend of Ennis Cosby who may have seen the shooting after receiving a phone call from the victim just before he was killed, his confidence in the Los Angeles Police Department and his reasons for returning to work on "Cosby."

The interview was initiated by Mr. Cosby, who called CBS News.

"He said it was Super Bowl Sunday, and he remembered watching Super Bowls with his son," Mr. Rather said Sunday. "He said he wanted to talk, and then he said: 'Bring your camera and your microphone. I have some things I want to tell people.'"

Mr. Cosby has declined to talk to any other reporters about the death of his son. Sunday he gave Mr. Rather a hint of why he had suddenly reached out. He told Mr. Rather that he had driven back to New York on Saturday night, and once in the city had been spotted in his car by several people. In the past, when passers-by recognized him, he would make a face or give them a thumbs-up sign, and they would laugh, Mr. Rather said, but this time they turned away "with very sad faces."

"He said to himself, 'This can't go on,'" Mr. Rather quoted Mr. Cosby as telling him. "He knows this is a hurt that will never go away, but insofar as humanly possible, he wants people to move back to the time where they saw him as someone who brings laughter into their lives."

Mr. Rather added: "He told me, 'I'm a comedian, I'm a performer, I'm an entertainer.' He said that's the way people know him, and the way he knows people, and he wanted to return to that relationship."

In a portion of the interview broadcast on Sunday night, Mr. Cosby said his wife was disturbed that their son's killer was still at large.

Mr. Rather said that he had known Mr. Cosby for about 20 years, although they were "not close personal friends." He said Mr. Cosby told him to ask anything he wanted.

Mr. Cosby "was very candid and said he took full responsibility for what happened" between him and Ms. Jackson's mother, Mr. Rather said. But he did not discuss the reaction of his wife, Camille, to the affair, nor did he say when she had learned of it.

Mr. Rather said Mr. Cosby had made only one request for the interview, that he be filmed sitting in front of a portrait of Ennis wearing his cap and gown on the day he received his master's degree from Columbia University in 1995.

Ennis Cosby had overcome a severe learning disability and was working toward a doctorate in special education, hoping to start a school for children with similar learning problems.

"The more I hear and read about Ennis Cosby," Mr. Rather added, "the more I understand what has been lost, not only by the Cosby family but by all of us. This was a young man who had already made a difference, and would have made more difference had he lived."

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LUXEMBOURG	LFR	3,3800	1,350	60%
NETHERLANDS	NLG	195	78	60%
NORWAY	NOK	832	390	53%
PORTUGAL	ESC	11,960	5,000	58%
SPAIN	PTAS	11,700	5,000	57%
SWEDEN	SEK	832	350	58%
SWITZERLAND	CHF	166	66	60%
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EUROPE

Yeltsin's Health Prompts Growing U.S. Concern

Officials Fear March Summit Is at Risk

By R. Jeffrey Smith
Washington Post Service

WASHINGTON — Senior administration officials admit that they are growing increasingly concerned about the health of President Boris Yeltsin of Russia, whose recovery from open-heart surgery in November is going more slowly than they had expected.

President Bill Clinton tried to calm worries about the Russian leader's health at a press conference Tuesday. He said he had full confidence in Moscow's statements about Mr. Yeltsin's health and added that he had absolutely no indication from Moscow that his meeting with Mr. Yeltsin would not take place as scheduled in March.

Monday, however, in a public acknowledgment of Washington's new uncertainty about the pace at which the Russian leader will resume his full duties, the White House said it could not be sure that a summit meeting between Mr. Yeltsin and Mr. Clinton would take place as planned.

Although the White House press secretary, Michael McCurry, sought to play down the announcement, other officials noted that rumors in Moscow and Washington are that Mr. Yeltsin may not be adhering to his prescribed medical regimen. They said they were newly worried that Mr. Yeltsin might not be able to make timely decisions about some sensitive issues in U.S.-Russia relations.

The U.S. concerns were fanned by a Kremlin announcement that Mr. Yeltsin, who has been in relative seclusion for the last week at a dacha community outside Moscow, had canceled a planned meeting with European leaders in the Netherlands in early February.

The Kremlin said that Mr. Yeltsin, who is recovering from a bout of double pneumonia, would keep an appointment in Moscow on Sunday with President Jacques Chirac of France. But the new cancellation came on the heels of an announcement last week that Mr. Yeltsin was too ill to attend a planned meeting on Wednesday of leaders of the Commonwealth of Independent States. The meeting was postponed.

[Russian television showed a brief clip on Tuesday of Mr. Yeltsin meeting an official — the first pictures of Mr. Yeltsin to be released since Jan. 6, Agence France-Presse reported from Moscow. The clip, without sound, showed Mr. Yeltsin, pale and fragile-looking, smiling and sitting at a desk.]

"He clearly is not recovering as fast as one would hope," a senior U.S. official said. Although the administration has been able to maintain close contact with other senior Russian officials, "there are inevitably certain decisions which are presidential" and must await Mr. Yeltsin's return to his office and full involvement in policy deliberations, the official said.

Foremost among these issues is Russia's posture toward the expansion of NATO and its future relations with Europe, a recent source of tension between Moscow and Washington that may come to a boil when NATO leaders meet in Madrid this summer to announce which of Moscow's former allies will be eligible for early membership in the alliance.

The administration is also eager for Mr. Yeltsin to put his political weight behind ratification of the 1993 START-2 treaty that deeply reduces the deployed nuclear arsenals of both nations, and to begin discussing additional nuclear cuts. Similarly, Mr. Yeltsin's personal involvement is seen by Washington as crucial to enacting additional economic reforms, including a new tax code and anti-corruption measures, that will help bring foreign investment to Russia's beleaguered economy.

The U.S. frustrations have been building for months, but became worse in recent weeks because Mr. Yeltsin has been in and out of the hospital, and no Western officials have gained an audience with him since Chancellor Helmut Kohl of Germany met him Jan. 4 at a country resort near Moscow.

"Every rumor that has existed for the past few years, is around again," including a report that Mr. Yeltsin has resumed drinking or has additional ailments not yet disclosed, the U.S. official said. Another official said less specifically that Washington had received unconfirmed reports that Mr. Yeltsin was not following his prescribed regimen.

Dr. Michael DeBakey, the American heart surgeon who was consulted by Mr. Yeltsin's doctors and is in regular contact with them, said that, to his knowledge, Mr. Yeltsin "was making good progress after the surgery, then he got the flu and it kind of knocked him out."

"It takes time to get back. There's nothing life-threatening about it. I'm convinced that if there was anything life-threatening, they would have told me."

Kremlin officials and Mr. Yeltsin's doctors have strongly denied that he has any undisclosed ailments, but also acknowledged last week that his visit to the Kremlin last Wednesday was made against the doctors' wishes. The visit was part of a campaign by Mr. Yeltsin to defeat a Communist-led effort in the Russian Parliament to declare him unfit for office because of his health.

The U.S. intelligence community has been unable to determine the precise status of Mr. Yeltsin's health or find evidence "to prove any of the rumors," a U.S. official said. He also cautioned that some of the recent tales about Mr. Yeltsin's health are evidently being spread by his rivals.

Mr. Yeltsin has not been an active president in any sense since late in June, just before he had a heart attack in the closing days of his re-election campaign. Although that heart attack was covered up for a time, it was clear that Mr. Yeltsin was not in day-to-day charge of the government.

Agence France-Presse

Mr. Yeltsin and Prime Minister Chernomyrdin at the Kremlin on Tuesday.

War Commander Leads In Chechen Election

By Lee Hockstader
Washington Post Service

MOSCOW — The former Chechen rebel military commander, Aslan Maskhadov, who negotiated peace with Moscow after his fighters manhandled the Russian Army last year, was heading for an easy victory in the secessionist republic's presidential elections, Russian television reported Tuesday evening.

Despite his wartime role, Mr. Maskhadov, 45, an even-tempered former Soviet Army colonel, is regarded by the Kremlin as a relative moderate, and officials in Moscow were plainly relieved at his triumph over more radically anti-Russian candidates.

But Mr. Maskhadov, as every one of the 13 men who ran for the Chechen presidency, openly advocates independence for the Muslim southern republic, where 20 months of war — and 200 years of colonization, repression and deportation — have inspired deep hatred for Russia.

Mr. Maskhadov was reported to lead his nearest rival by a 2-1 margin as counting continued from Monday's vote.

His apparently easy victory was greeted joyfully by Chechens as a giant step toward independence from Russia. In his first news conference since the election, Mr. Maskhadov did not disappoint. "We formed our position in 1991," he declared. "Chechnya is an independent state. Sovereignty was declared. Now one thing remains: that independence be recognized by all the states of Europe, including Russia."

In fact, as far as many Chechens are concerned, their republic of 1 million people is already independent for all practical purposes — free of Russian police, army, government and courts. The elections were organized without any Russian supervision, financing or approval, and were judged free by observers from the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe.

Now, Chechens hope, Mr. Maskhadov will be able to coax Russia and other countries into recognizing Chechen autonomy as a matter of international law. That is not likely to happen any time soon. Moscow, fearing further dismemberment of the federation, is ardently opposed to independence for Chechnya.

On Tuesday, Moscow's semiofficial Interfax news agency reported that maps currently being printed for 1997 would continue to show Chechnya as part of the Russian Federation.

The maps will not use the separatists' own name for the republic, Ichkeria. Nor will they reflect the rebels' proclamation last week that henceforth their capital city of Grozny will be renamed in honor of General Dzhokar Dudayev, the fiercely pro-independence president of the republic elected in 1991, who was killed by a rocket fired from a Russian helicopter last spring.

The Russians are hoping that Mr. Maskhadov will pay lip service to independence while privately coming to terms with Moscow. Certainly, Chechnya must reach an accommodation with Russia if it is to begin to resurrect its economy and ease the deepening poverty.

But independence fever is running so high in Chechnya that Mr. Maskhadov would be risking political suicide to strike any deal in the near term that compromised on sovereignty.

He would also be risking confrontation with his nearest rival in Monday's elections, a rebel commander named Shamil Basayev, who appeared to be collecting at least a quarter of the vote.

Sensitive to suggestions that he is too moderate, Mr. Maskhadov asserted that Russian television had painted him during the campaign as Moscow's man, implausible as that might seem for a former military leader whose troops wiped out thousands of Russian soldiers in the last two years.

Still, Mr. Maskhadov made no effort to antagonize Moscow, and he pledged good treatment for the tens of thousands of ethnic Russians who remain in Chechnya, many of whom have complained of harassment by the Chechens.

Sharansky Visits Sakharov's Grave

Agence France-Presse

MOSCOW — Natan Sharansky, the former Soviet dissident who has returned to Russia as Israel's trade and industry minister, visited the grave of Andrei Sakharov, his fellow dissident, on Tuesday.

Mr. Sharansky, back in Russia nearly 11 years after he was freed from the Soviet Union's prison system, praised the huge contribution to the human rights cause made by Mr. Sakharov, a Nobel peace laureate.

"With his own example and own words, he influenced thousands of people and I am one of them," Mr. Sharansky said.

At the Sakharov grave south of Moscow, Mr. Sharansky said that the nuclear physicist had been largely responsible for the democratization of Russia.

Accompanied by his wife, Avital, Mr. Sharansky then visited Moscow's central synagogue, where he experienced an emotional reunion with a longtime acquaintance, Lev Mishkin, 74.

Arrested in March 1977 and convicted of "treason, hostile propaganda and espionage" in 1978, Mr. Sharansky spent nine years in Soviet prison camps.

BRIEFLY

Bulgarian Unions to Strike

SOFIA — Bulgaria's main trade unions called Tuesday for a general strike starting Wednesday to push for early elections and prevent a new government from being formed by Interior Minister Nikolai Dobrev.

Their call came hours after President Petar Stoyanov, a conservative, chose the interior minister in the caretaker administration to form a government. His decision came after the governing Socialist Party, the former Communists, turned down his proposal to hold early elections in May, radio reports said.

Mr. Dobrev agreed to present his new cabinet to Parliament next week.

But Bulgaria's three main unions, KNSB, Podkrepa and Promiana, immediately called for a general strike to prevent him from doing so. *(AFP)*

Ciller Escapes Graft Inquiry

ANKARA — The Turkish Parliament on Tuesday narrowly rejected a proposed new inquiry into Deputy Prime Minister Tansu Ciller that could have sent her to the Supreme Court on corruption charges.

The opposition proposal to investigate accusations that Mrs. Ciller used the services of the state-owned Turban hotel and tourism company for personal purposes was defeated, 247 to 242.

The vote could have caused a rift in the coalition government led by religious Muslims if it had gone against Mrs. Ciller, the former prime minister who is now also the foreign minister. *(Reuters)*

Barbara Gindl/Agence France-Presse

AUSTRIAN SWORN IN — Foreign Minister Wolfgang Schuessel whispering to the new Austrian chancellor, Viktor Klima, after leaving the president's office in Vienna on Tuesday.

Fines for Germany and Italy

BRUSSELS — Germany and Italy face multimillion dollar fines for failing to follow environmental directives by the European Court of Justice, European Union officials said Tuesday.

The fines would be the first application of a new system in the European Commission intended to force EU states to comply with European legislation, the officials said.

The directives cover water standards and protection of wild birds for Germany and waste disposal for Italy. *(AFP)*

A Recount Saves the Tories

LONDON — A recount Tuesday of votes on an education bill spared the Conservative government a humiliating defeat in the House of Commons.

The vote was announced on the Commons floor Monday as 273 to 272 against the government measure, but the official vote count the next day turned out to be 273 to 273. Any blatant loss of control could force a confidence vote, which could force early elections. *(AFP)*

French Socialists In Belgium Fight Bribery Scandal

Reuters

BRUSSELS — The center-left government fought for its life Tuesday as pressure mounted on the French wing of the Socialist Party to leave the coalition and the police raided the party's headquarters here.

Social Affairs Minister Magda de Galan said her party had "received the message loud and clear" from Prime Minister Jean-Luc Dehaene that the Socialists should clean up their act and make clear who was to blame in a new bribery scandal.

The government later played down the impact of the bribery investigation, calling it "an internal problem of the PS."

The bribery scandal erupted when two former top Socialist Party officials, Merry Hermanus and Francois Pirot, were arrested last week as part of an investigation into allegations that the party received kickbacks from the French aviation company Dassault. They were charged Monday with taking 30 million Belgian francs (about $1 million) from Dassault in 1989 as a contribution for the party.

Germany Insists That Scientology Is a Threat

The Associated Press

BONN — Responding to U.S. criticism of Germany's treatment of Scientologists, the government on Tuesday once again asserted that the U.S.-based Church of Scientology was a threat to this country.

The U.S. State Department's annual report on human rights around the world, due this week, will point to German treatment of Scientologists as an abuse.

The German government says the Church of Scientology, with 30,000 members in Germany, is largely a money-making organization with some traits of organized crime that seeks world domination and threatens democracy, all allegations that Scientology denies.

Last month, Germany announced it would keep people linked to the group out of certain public jobs, such as counseling and teaching. The governing Christian Democratic Union has ousted party members because of their connection to Scientology.

Peter Hausmann, spokesman for Chancellor Helmut Kohl, responded to the U.S. State Department report by pointing out that Mr. Kohl and governors of Germany's 16 states had agreed in December that Scientology was a threat.

"The federal government and the state governments emphasized then the activities and practices of Scientology are questionable, and that its efforts to expand and its quest for domination will be combated with all legal means," Mr. Hausmann said.

Nicholas Burns, the U.S. State Department spokesman, said in Washington on Monday that Germany had discriminated against Scientologists.

But he said it was wrong to compare Germany's treatment of Scientologists to the Nazis' persecution of Jews in the late 1930s, as the Scientologists and some American celebrities who are not Scientologists have done.

"It is an outrageous historical claim," Mr. Burns said.

"There is no pattern of discrimination against the Scientologists that compares even remotely to what happened to the Jews and to others during the Nazi era," he said.

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ASIA/PACIFIC

Seoul Union to Abandon Weekly Strike Day, for Now

Reuters

SEOUL — South Korea's outlawed union said Tuesday it was abandoning its one-day-a-week strikes, partly because of economic turmoil caused by the collapse of the country's second-largest steelmaker.

But the Korean Confederation of Trade Unions still plans full stoppages starting on Feb. 18 unless the government scraps a new labor law.

The confederation led almost four weeks of intermittent wildcat strikes after the law was rammed through Parliament on Dec. 26.

It ordered its 500,000 members to walk out on Wednesdays only after President Kim Young Sam agreed to return the bill to Parliament for debate, and lifted the threat of arrest against its leaders sheltering in a Seoul cathedral.

However, Mr. Kim has rejected union demands to scrap the legislation, which makes it easier for companies to lay off workers and hire temporary staff.

"We have postponed Wednesday strikes to prepare for the fourth stage of strikes on Feb. 18," said a confederation official, Chung Sung Hee.

"We also took into consideration economic difficulties faced by the country as a result of the Hanbo incident."

Banks and financial markets have been battered by the collapse of Hanbo Steel Co. under a mountain of debt estimated at $5.8 billion.

But the confederation president, Kwon Young Kil, warned the government against trying to manipulate the Hanbo crisis. He said that instead of strikes on Wednesdays the union would organize rallies.

Meanwhile, Hyundai Motor Co., South Korea's largest car maker, said it was delaying salary payments to 20,000 office staff because it was short of cash after the strikes, which hit the auto industry hardest.

It was the first time the company has failed to pay workers on time since 1979, said a company official, Shin Dong Woo.

The company estimates production losses at its main factory in Ulsan at 670 billion won ($784 million).

"The strikes dragged on for longer than expected and during that time the company was not able to raise money from sales so it is short of working capital," Mr. Shin said.

Hyundai was having trouble securing bank loans because of tight liquidity in the banking system following the collapse of Hanbo Steel, he added.

Blue-collar workers would not be affected by the salary delay, Mr. Shin said. Office workers had been told they would be paid in full before the start of the lunar New Year holiday on Feb. 7, he said.

■ Taiwan Is Firm on Nuclear Waste

Defying South Korean protests, Taiwan said Tuesday it would start shipping nuclear waste to North Korea for storage in a month, The Associated Press reported from Taipei.

Taiwan has so far not disclosed a timetable, but state TV said arrangements were being speeded up, with a visit Tuesday by North Korean technicians to Taiwan's Lanyu Island where the barrels of waste are awaiting shipment.

Pyongyang has issued an import permit for the low-level nuclear waste, and shipment is expected to begin in about a month, said Taiwan's vice economics minister, Chang Chang-pang.

PAKISTAN: *Corruption Charges Head Most Tickets*

Continued from Page 1

similar presidential order briefly restored to power in 1993 the man who was then prime minister, Nawaz Sharif.

Miss Bhutto's supporters are hopeful, partly because the interim government installed by Mr. Leghari has failed to produce evidence to support his general allegations of corruption and abuses of human rights.

If the election is held, independent analysts predict that the pro-business Pakistan Muslim League led by Mr. Sharif, a former industrialist, will prevail but with less than a majority in the 217-member parliament.

Mr. Sharif, 47, was prime minister from 1990 to 1993. His political base is Punjab Province, home to almost 60 percent of the nation's 130 million people. He was forced from office partly on allegations of corruption, including drug trafficking, that were never substantiated in court.

Miss Bhutto, 44, who was elected prime minister in 1988 and 1993, is the daughter of the late Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, a former prime minister who was executed in 1979 on murder charges by a military government that ousted him from office in 1975.

Her popularity has clearly slipped as a result of the country's economic troubles and allegations that her husband, Asif Ali Zardari, took bribes and kickbacks while she was in office. He has been detained since Miss Bhutto's dismissal and was charged in the killing of her brother, Murtaza Bhutto, in September 1996.

Investigators have questioned Mr. Zardari about the couple's alleged purchase last year of a $3.9 million mansion outside London, the government's acquisition in 1994 of three French submarines for $1 billion, suspected kickbacks on power plants financed by the World Bank, and other deals involving government real estate and Pakistan Steel, an enterprise owned by the state.

Instead of defending the dismissed government, Miss Bhutto's populist Pakistan People's Party has primarily campaigned against the interim government, which has raised prices of gasoline and cooking oil to reduce the country's budget deficit — a requirement for obtaining International Monetary Fund assistance.

A prominent newcomer to politics is Imran Khan, 44, former star of the nation's cricket team. His reform-minded Movement for Justice, established last year, has called for clean government and stronger accountability of officials.

Mr. Khan's platform has public appeal, especially among the middle class, but he lacks political experience, a strong organization and the political patronage that traditionally has won votes. Despite his status as a national celebrity, Mr. Khan remains an unknown figure to some rural residents who do not own television sets. He has said that he has never voted because he was always out of the country on election day, playing in cricket matches.

Around the country, some voting is likely to follow ethnic lines. Miss Bhutto is an ethnic Sindi, while Mr. Sharif is a Punjabi. Mr. Khan is a Pashtun, the predominant group in North-West Frontier Province, although he grew up in Punjab.

Saeed Khan/Agence France-Presse

Veiled Pakistani women listening to a Bhutto speech on Tuesday.

Another ethnic group, muhajirs — the migrants who arrived when Pakistan was partitioned from India in 1947, and their descendants — has appeared eager for elections after boycotting the 1993 vote. The interim government has released from jail several leaders of the Muhajir National Movement so they can campaign.

HANBO: *Korean President Cancels European Trip as Loan Scandal Widens*

Continued from Page 1

the most exposure to Hanbo Steel.

In total, 29 people have been banned from leaving the country over the affair. Others have included Chung Tae Soo, the group's founder, and his son Chung Bo Keun, the current chairman.

It is not the first time that Chung Tae Soo has been investigated. He paid 15 billion won into a slush fund raised by Roh Tae Woo, the former president who is now serving a 17-year jail term for corruption and abuses of human rights.

But a Seoul court trying Mr. Chung and Mr. Roh, along with other businessmen, acquitted Mr. Chung on the grounds that the money was forcibly extracted.

The governing New Korea Party said its parliamentary leader met his opposition counterparts to discuss reopening the National Assembly for talks on Hanbo.

The scandal has embarrassed Mr. Kim's government, which is already on the defensive after a botched effort last month to revise labor laws to make them more favorable to employers.

The crisis again hammered the stock market Tuesday, with banking and securities shares falling sharply. The overall Seoul composite stock index fell 1.85 points to end at 662.85, despite measures by the government to lift market sentiment.

An unrecognized union group said it was abandoning weekly strikes , partly because of the economic turmoil caused by Hanbo.

The central bank announced plans to add 3 trillion more won to the commercial banking system to prevent a feared chain of bankruptcies in the Hanbo Group.

The move brings to 6 trillion won the amount of cash the bank has added this month to keep interest rates steady amid a cash shortage and rising loan demand attributed to the Hanbo crisis. Finance and Economy Minister Han Seung Soo told an emergency cabinet meeting that the government would inject the funds before the Lunar New Year holidays that fall on Feb. 7 to 9.

International investors are betting that the central bank's action will be successful. The spread, or difference in yield, between Korean corporate debt and benchmark borrowing rates has narrowed by no more than about 5 basis points since Hanbo's collapse, traders said.

(Reuters, Bloomberg, AFP)

BRIEFLY

China's Taiwan Aide Replaced

BEIJING — China removed Wang Zhaoguo on Tuesday as its top official responsible for dealing with Taiwan and appointed his deputy to replace him.

The State Council, or cabinet, gave no reason for the change in an announcement issued by the official Xinhua press agency.

Mr. Wang, 55, a protege of the paramount leader, Deng Xiaoping, was replaced as director of the Taiwan Affairs Office under the State Council by the deputy director, Chen Yunlin, Xinhua said. *(Reuters)*

Burma Imprisons 14 in Unrest

BANGKOK — Burma said Tuesday that 14 persons, including 5 members of the political party led by the opposition leader, Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, had been jailed for seven years for involvement in last month's student unrest.

The military government said in a statement that the five members of the National League for Democracy and nine others had been found guilty of agitation and throwing rocks at security personnel during the unrest.

A spokesman for the ruling State Law and Order Restoration Council said the defendants were sentenced Monday. "None of those sentenced were students," the statement said.

Thousands of Rangoon university students launched anti-government street protests in the capital in December to seek greater freedoms. *(Reuters)*

Megawati Meeting Investigated

JAKARTA — Megawati Sukarnoputri, the Indonesian opposition leader, will be interrogated for allegedly holding an illegal political meeting, it was reported Tuesday.

President Suharto personally approved a police request to question Mrs. Megawati and her husband, Taufik Kiemas, over the gathering at their home on Jan. 10, the Kompas daily newspaper said. It quoted the spokesman for the attorney general's office, Suhartoyo.

Presidential authority is needed by the police to question members of Parliament. Both Mrs. Megawati and Mr. Kiemas are members for the opposition Indonesian Democracy Party, one of the country's three officially recognized political parties.

Mrs. Megawati, the daughter of Indonesia's founding president, Sukarno, and her supporters were not included on lists of candidates in May 29 elections that were made public last week. *(AFP)*

For the Record

The ashes of Mahatma Gandhi, forgotten in a bank vault for nearly 50 years, were handed over to his great-grandson in Cuttack, India, on Tuesday for ritualistic Hindu funeral rites. *(AFP)*

The election of a successor to Mother Teresa as the head of the Missionaries of Charity religious order has been postponed from Sunday to an indefinite date, the Roman Catholic church said Tuesday. The announcement, giving no reason for the postponement, said that the ailing 86-year-old nun had agreed to it. *(Reuters)*

Philippine government veterinarians began killing about 600 monkeys believed to be infected with the Ebola virus, injecting them Tuesday with lethal drugs before incinerating them, officials said. *(Reuters)*

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In order to provide the crude oil transportation service, the contractor shall build and operate at its own account and risk, in accordance with the legal provisions and regulations in force, a main pipeline system independent of SOTE, called the Centro Oriente Pipeline System, SOCO.

The investment, construction, operation, maintenance, administration, financing, as well as taxes and any other costs and expenses necessary for the timely and efficient transportation service, shall be borne by the contractor.

The SOCO shall have a transportation capacity, authorized by the Ministry of Energy and Mines, of 216,000 barrels of oil per day from the Sacha Station up to the Sarayacu Station, and 246,000 barrels of oil per day from the Sarayacu Station up the Balao Terminal, for crude oil of a gravity of 18 degrees API, 1,000 SSU, at 125 degrees Farenheit, through a API-5L-X65 steel pipeline. Additionally, the SOCO shall have the capacity to transport crude oil equal to or above 16 degrees API gravity. The project includes the construction of approximately 514 km of pipeline, made up of 280 km of a 24" pipeline, 65 km of a 18" pipeline and 169 km of a 28" pipeline.

The route this oil pipeline must follow, taking into account the instructions provided in Article 81 of the Hydrocarbon Law, shall commence at Sacha and connect with Huaticocha, Sarayacu, Baeza and then shall follow in parallel to the Transecuadorian Oil Pipeline (SOTE), using the SOTE right of way, up to the Balao Terminal.

The contractor shall install a secondary line of approximately 50 km of API-5L-X60, 12" pipeline that will connect Auca Sur with the Sacha (SOCO) Station.

A secondary system of 30 km of API-5L-X65, 24" pipeline shall be installed connecting the Limoncocha Station to the Sacha (SOCO) Pumping Station.

The contractor shall build storage facilities for 750,000 barrels of crude oil at the Sacha (SOCO) Station and for 2,000,000 barrels of crude oil at the Balao Terminal.

The contractor shall also construct interconnections to the inlet manifold of the Balao Terminal (SOTE) tanks; to the tankers' loading lines at the Balao Terminal (SOTE); and to the crude oil line connected to the SOTE, supplying the Esmeraldas State owned Refinery.

The SOCO shall include all necessary facilities, in each one of the system's areas, for their correct and safe operation. It will have metering as well as communication and SCADA systems.

The Contracting Bases, approved by Executive Decree No. 423 of December 30, 1996 and published in Official Register No. 101 of January 3, 1997 and further bidding documents, shall be made available as of 09:00 hs. of February 3, 1997 by the PETROECUADOR's Oil Pipeline Department located at 230 Japón Street and Río Amazonas Ave., Carolina Park Building, fifth floor, in the city of Quito, Ecuador, Fax (593-2) 441-090, Telephone (593-2) 440-371, upon registration and payment of a non-reimbursable fee of US$ 150,000,oo (One Hundred and Fifty Thousand Dollars of the United States of America) by certified check drawn on a bank established in Ecuador to the order of PETROECUADOR, delivered to its Treasurer, first floor of the Alpallana Building, located at Alpallana Street and 6th of December Avenue in the city of Quito, Ecuador.

In accordance with Art. 49 of the Regulation for the Application of the Amendment Law to the Hydrocarbons Law No. 44 and Executive Decree 3730, published in the Official Register No. 931 of April 23, 1996, interested companies must, prior to the submittal of bids, be qualified by the Ministry of Energy and Mines. For the qualification by the Ministry of Energy and Mines, the Ministry must receive the legal, financial and technical documentation listed in detail in the Instructions for Qualification, issued through Ministerial Agreement No. 025 of October 24, 1996 published in the Official Register No.63 of November 7, 1996 and its list of errata published in the Official Register No. 75 of November 25, 1996.

The bids shall be submitted in the Spanish language, in one original and one copy, in a single package containig sealed envelopes numbered 1 and 2, duly paginated in consecutive pages and initialed on each page by the Legal Representative of the Bidder, and shall be received in the office of the Secretary of the Special Bidding Committee, (CEL), ninth floor of the Alpallana Building, Alpallana Street and 6th of December Ave., in the city of Quito, Ecuador, until 16:00 hs. of Monday, April 7, 1997.

Quito, January 23, 1997

Lcdo. Alfredo Adum Z.
Minister of Energy and Mines
Chairman of the Special Bidding Committee

Gen. Patricio López M.
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INTERNATIONAL

Tables Turned in Hebron

Palestinians Man the Checkpoints And Vow to Keep 'Law and Order'

By Joel Greenberg
New York Times Service

HEBRON, West Bank — The scene at the entrance to town on Monday was once unthinkable.

Under a giant poster of a beaming Yasser Arafat, a Jewish settler from neighboring Kiryat Arba stepped gingerly from his car and showed his identification card to a Palestinian police officer at a checkpoint.

Peering into the vehicle, the police officer demanded to know whether the settler, David Hadad, had a gun. Speaking fluent Arabic, Mr. Hadad, a cabinetmaker who buys supplies from Arabs in Hebron, replied that he was unarmed.

Wearing the skullcap of an observant Jew, Mr. Hadad seemed tense and short of breath as Palestinians in olive uniforms and red berets questioned him.

"I pass by here all the time," he said as he slid back behind the wheel. "This is my road, my home, my country. It's the Land of Israel, the city of our forefather Abraham."

"I don't care about them," he added as he turned away from the officers, and after a sharp exchange with one of them, drove off.

For almost 30 years, Israeli soldiers questioned, delayed, and sometimes roughed up Arab motorists coming into Hebron on the highway from Jerusalem. Now, after an Israeli pullback on Jan. 17, Palestinians are checking Israelis.

Palestinian checkpoints on roads used by Israelis are potential flash points of violence, but on Monday they were a working experiment in the new division of power in this city.

In the four-fifths of Hebron that have come under Palestinian rule under the Israeli-Palestinian agreement reached this month, the streets seemed relaxed Monday. Shoppers out in force mingled with police officers on the streets, no longer casting anxious glances at tense Israeli sentries in fortified positions.

The Israeli posts have vanished, with some replaced by police positions flying the Palestinian colors and manned by officers carrying side arms instead of rifles, under the terms of the agreement.

At the site of one post that had drawn frequent stone-throwing from local youths, a group of Palestinian officers sat warming themselves over a fire this past week. Behind them, shops shut for years by the Israelis and painted over with the colors of an Israeli paratroop unit were thrown open, revealing rusting machinery and spoiled goods.

City leaders want to revive commerce in Hebron by restoring a major thoroughfare running past Jewish settler enclaves that was closed by the Israeli Army for security reasons. Under the agreement, the road is supposed to be reopened to Palestinian traffic in four months.

At the hilltop fort that until recently was the Israeli military headquarters, commanders of the Palestinian security forces declare that their part of the city is open to Israeli visitors, including settlers, as long as they respect the rules and regulations of the Palestinian Authority.

"We're in favor of normalization," said Brigadier General Abdel Fattah Jaidi, the commander of Palestinian police forces in Hebron, as workmen readied his new office, once used by the Israeli military governor.

But outside, a team of young men carrying AK-47 rifles and wearing black overalls labeled "Rapid Intervention Unit-Preventive Security" was a reminder of the potential for violence.

The leader of the unit, Colonel Jibril Rajoub, is Mr. Arafat's strongman in Hebron. Colonel Rajoub's men reportedly blocked anti-Israeli protests during the army pullback, and have also met with Islamic militants to prevent violence against the settlers.

"We've met with the political factions, and they are free to oppose the agreement," Colonel Rajoub said, "but they have no right to take any action that will harm the Palestinian Authority and its commitments. The authority will impose law and order."

There are also daily contacts with the Israeli Army forces that remain in control of 20 percent of Hebron, including the settlers' enclaves.

The young Palestinian policemen in Hebron, many of them local recruits who fought street battles against Israelis during a seven-year Palestinian uprising, seem anxious to prove that they can meet their new responsibilities.

Housed in what used to be jail cells in the hilltop fort, they point proudly to relics of a bygone era: pictures of Mr. Arafat posted by former inmates and blotted out by Israeli jailers.

Rina Castelnuovo/The New York Times

David Hadad, an Israeli settler from Kiryat Arba, handing over his identification card to a Palestinian police officer at a checkpoint on the outskirts of Hebron. He was questioned and then allowed to pass on.

■ Hamas Chief Ends Legal Fight

The State Department said Tuesday that a Hamas leader jailed in the United States, Mousa Mohammed Abu Marzuk, had dropped his opposition to being extradited to Israel, where he faces terrorism charges, The Associated Press reported from Washington.

"We understand that Mr. Abu Marzuk intends to withdraw his legal challenge to the order finding him extraditable," said the State Department spokesman, Nicholas Burns. "Any such decision is within his rights," he added.

A friend of the Hamas leader, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said he had lost confidence that he would be given a fair trial in the United States. But the U.S. attorney's office in New York said no court papers had been filed yet withdrawing his appeal to avoid extradition. Lawyers for Mr. Abu Marzuk declined to comment.

Chief of Jewish Agency Castigates Swiss on Holocaust Probe

The Associated Press

JERUSALEM — Switzerland is dragging its feet in finding the missing bank assets of Holocaust victims because it fears the probe will uncover the extent of the country's role as the "bank of the Nazis," the head of the Jewish Agency said Tuesday.

The Jewish Agency chief, Avraham Burg, said Swiss banks and the Swiss government had been fighting efforts to find the assets every step of the way.

Jewish groups accuse Switzerland of hoarding as much as $7 billion in unclaimed funds of Jews killed in the Holocaust. Switzerland says the real figure is a tiny fraction of that.

Mr. Burg said that he was sorry the agency's relations with Switzerland were strained.

"I'm talking not only about the Swiss banks, but also the Swiss government," he said. "Everything takes such an effort. Pressure has to be applied for everything."

He spoke as an investigation was being launched in Sweden into reports that gold taken from Jews by the Nazis was paid to Sweden in return for steel for the German arms industry. Mr. Burg said that Sweden was acting "in a very, very responsible manner, in contrast to the Swiss model."

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu of Israel said the issue of the missing assets would be high on his agenda when he meets with Swiss leaders during the international economic conference in the Swiss resort of Davos.

Mr. Netanyahu was more conciliatory than Mr. Burg. "I believe there is goodwill on the part of all governments to try and resolve this," he said.

The Swiss have offered to set up a compensation fund for Nazi victims.

■ Weizman Cancels Swiss Visit

President Ezer Weizman of Israel has canceled a planned visit to Switzerland, but not because of the Jewish dispute with the Swiss over the fate of bank accounts left ownerless by the Holocaust, officials said Tuesday, according to a Reuters dispatch from Zurich.

The Israeli Embassy in Bern said Mr. Weizman had dropped plans to attend on Aug. 31 the 100th anniversary of the first Zionist congress, which met in the Swiss city of Basel and launched a movement that led to the founding of Israel in 1948.

"The reason is because of unforeseen problems that have arisen in his agenda," an embassy spokesman said.

"There is absolutely no connection between the cancellation of the visit and the issue of Holocaust victims' money," the spokesman added.

BRIEFLY

Rebels in East Zaire Claim Advances

GOMA, Zaire — Zairian rebels claimed Tuesday to have advanced in South Kivu Province amid persistent rumors that the government was about to unleash an air raid on the rebel stronghold of Goma.

A rebel spokesman said the mainly Tutsi rebels, who already controlled a large section of eastern Zaire, had captured the town of Lulimba near Lake Tanganyika.

Emmanuel Kamanzi, logistical coordinator for the rebels, said they had taken that town and were heading toward Kalemie, which has been the last port on the lake under government control since Uvira fell in October. It is linked by rail to southern Shaba Province. *(AFP)*

CIA Formally Bars Teaching of Torture

WASHINGTON — After disclosing that it taught some of its agents how to use torture as recently as the early 1980s, the CIA said Tuesday that it now banned the practice and was committed to protecting human rights.

On Monday, the Central Intelligence Agency made available a 1983 manual that had been used to train security forces in at least five Latin American countries.

The manual discussed the use of "coercive" interrogation techniques such as physical strain, threats and disruptions of sleep to destroy "the capacity to resist."

But by 1985, it said, the CIA had adopted a policy opposing the use of "inhumane treatment of any kind as an aid to interrogation." *(Reuters)*

Liberian Refugees May Return in June

ABEOKUTA, Nigeria — Thousands of Liberian refugees living in Nigeria could start returning home in June if the peace process in Liberia continued, a Nigerian minister said Tuesday.

Lazarus Unaogu, a special-duties minister who supervises the National Commission for Refugees, said Nigeria, which provides a large part of the African peacekeeping force in Liberia, was satisfied with the level of compliance with the revised peace accord that was signed in August. *(AFP)*

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EDITORIALS/OPINION

Herald INTERNATIONAL Tribune

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Business Above All

The Clinton administration's tendency to let commercial opportunities override sensible national security policies is troubling. Recent days brought word that last summer business considerations led the White House to waive a law prohibiting American companies from doing business with countries that sponsor terrorism. Specifically, officials gave approval to the Occidental Petroleum Corp. to take part in a $930 million oil project in Sudan.

The administration has also dropped a long-standing ban on sales of the Advanced Medium-Range Air-to Air Missile (Amraam) to countries outside NATO. The decision cripples efforts to negotiate limits on arms sales and increases the risk that this highly effective weapon may one day be used against America or its allies. The ban was dropped to allow American aerospace companies to gain a competitive edge over Russian and French rivals.

The most effective way to fight terrorism or restrain arms sales is through international action. But with the world's biggest economy and its most technologically advanced arms industry, America can exert considerable influence on its own, provided it maintains strict and consistent standards. When Washington starts selectively enforcing its own rules, its policies become meaningless.

Sudan's radical Islamic government supports international terrorists. The administration blames it for a 1995 assassination attempt against Egypt's president, Hosni Mubarak, and last year expelled a Sudanese diplomat for plotting to bomb the UN headquarters. Helping Sudan's oil industry does not serve American interests.

A few months ago, the administration judged Sudan's government so threatening that it decided to provide military equipment to rebel groups based in three neighboring countries. When news of the American military deliveries became public, Sudan decided to exclude Occidental from the oil project.

Policy toward the Sudanese regime now seems hopelessly confused. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright did little to clarify it at her introductory news conference last Friday. Even as she called for new UN sanctions against Sudan, she endorsed the decision to let Occidental bid for the oil contract.

The Amraam sales remain on track. In 1995 the administration gave Lockheed permission to include the missiles along with 80 F-16 fighter planes that the company was trying to sell to the United Arab Emirates. That gave Lockheed an edge over its French competitors, but it also set a damaging precedent. Soon Thailand also demanded Amraams as a sweetener for buying American jets. Thailand's bid has already been conditionally approved, making similar demands from other Southeast Asian countries certain.

American efforts to combat terrorism and limit the sale of advanced weapons cannot be suspended every time an attractive business deal appears. Before long, the waivers and exceptions will become the policy, and Washington will be left with a set of hollow principles.

—THE NEW YORK TIMES.

Swiss Catch-Up

It marks progress that the government and the banks in Switzerland are now speaking of setting up a fund of more than $70 million to compensate Nazi Holocaust victims or heirs whose deposits in Swiss banks have disappeared. Up to this point the Swiss had refused to acknowledge responsibility for those deposits and had sought to shift the onus onto the claimants for raising the issue in the first place. Now they are moving to confront not only a banking obligation to depositors but also a moral obligation to themselves to open up a painful chapter of their wartime conduct. As is suggested by reports on formerly Jewish-owned works of art now in French museums, Switzerland is not the only country under this sort of scrutiny.

The surge of declassified documents after the end of the Cold War shows that in World War II some Swiss banks swallowed depositors' funds, at a moment when tens of thousands of Germans seeking refuge were being turned away at the Swiss border. It also appears that the Swiss laundered substantial assets looted by the Nazis; in short, they helped finance the German war effort — and this while their government was avowing a wartime "neutrality" whose full price has yet to be revealed.

The process of discovery has produced sobering evidence not just of banking patterns but of residual resentments of Jews in Swiss society. High officials — Bern's ambassador in Washington, who resigned on Monday, turned out to be in this category — have sought to divert the focus of inquiry from Swiss banking practices to Jewish questions about them.

This is a particularly ugly version of "blame the victim." It is unworthy of a nation whose international standing and banking eminence rest on a claim to national integrity.

Fortunately, there are those in Switzerland who value probity in banking and in facing the historical record. It would have been better had the Swiss not waited for a crisis touching their deepest national interests and values to confront this dark aspect of their past. Then they would not be under such strong pressure to set up a mechanism of compensation for wronged depositors even before their own and foreign, including American, inquiries near completion. By stonewalling, the Swiss lost the opportunity to proceed at their own unhurried pace. No matter — the important thing is that justice be done and truth told.

—THE WASHINGTON POST.

Mammogram Puzzle

The current dispute over how frequently women between 40 and 50 should have mammograms foreshadows the kind of medical decisions that will have to be made more frequently in America as technology improves and the government's role in health care expands. There is as yet no clear scientific answer to guide all women and their doctors, only probabilities to be calculated and weighed. Unfortunately for the women at risk, the nation's best medical experts have yet to reach consensus about what advice to give.

There is no question but that annual mammograms for women over 50 save lives. Debate is minimal about recommending the procedure for women under 40 because the incidence of breast cancer is extremely low in that group. But 10 years ago the American Cancer Society and the National Cancer Institute recommended annual or biannual mammograms for women between 40 and 50. In 1993, the government's scientists at the cancer institute reconsidered this recommendation and announced that such routine screening was probably not necessary for this group. On Thursday, a panel of medical experts — the majority are women — convened by the institute unanimously agreed not to change this recommendation. Both the Cancer Society and the institute's director, Richard Klausner, disagree.

Some women in their 40s, those at special risk for breast cancer, will have little difficulty deciding to have the exam regularly. But the panel believes that women must consider the downside of the procedure as well. A significant number of women in this age group — about a third over a 10-year period — will be incorrectly told that they have a tumor, and that tumor will be treated as if it were malignant. In addition, another three in 10,000 might develop cancer from the X-rays used in mammography. Given these risks, the choice for most women will not be automatic.

The national debate is further complicated by two factors. First, how much of the country's health dollar, spent through private insurance and government programs, should be set aside for procedures that are expensive and help only small numbers of people? And second, what can be done to reassure women that their health needs are no longer of secondary concern to the medical and political establishment?

Neither factor should be conclusive. If the benefits of early mammograms outweigh the risks, concerns about cost should be overridden. And if the reverse is true, there should be no inference in the political sector that the calamity of breast cancer is being minimized. Neither concern should drive the debate. The search for better medical information must be accelerated.

—THE WASHINGTON POST.

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Back to Consensus on American Foreign Policy

By Madeleine K. Albright

The writer is the new U.S. secretary of state.

WASHINGTON — Dean Acheson wrote of being present, a half-century ago, at the creation of a new era. We, too, have that privilege, and the responsibility that goes along with it.

Then, our leaders had the foresight to maintain a strong America while bolstering democratic forces around the world and building institutions such as NATO, the United Nations and the World Bank to foster international cooperation and economic growth. They did so on a bipartisan basis.

Today, a new framework for U.S. leadership, adapted to the needs of a new century, is being built. Its success will depend, in significant measure, on whether the spirit of bipartisanship that arose after World War II can be revived. Cynics might suggest that an administration call for bipartisanship is prompted less by principle than by an ability to count. And we will certainly need votes from both parties in Congress to sustain many of our foreign policy initiatives. But bipartisanship also suits our times.

For decades, the Cold War categorized not only foreign nations but all those involved in foreign policy. Today the labels of the past — hawk, dove, liberal, conservative — mean little. The greatest divide is between the proponents and opponents of American engagement, a divide that does not respect party lines.

Fortunately, both parties are led by people who understand the importance of American leadership. This matters, because a bipartisan foreign policy allows us to act with greater credibility on the world stage. It inspires trust from our allies and respect from those tempted to oppose us.

It helps us play a diplomatic part, as peacemaker and problem solver, that other nations cannot, thereby enhancing our prestige while advancing our interests. And it reinforces America's role as a model for strengthening democratic forces.

Disagreements about tactics aside, the prospects for bipartisanship are brightened by the existing broad support for our primary objectives. There is a consensus on the need to advance prosperity at home by promoting an open and expanding global economy, and for working with our allies to create an increasingly united, democratic and stable Europe.

Both parties see the importance of building an Asia-Pacific community with shared economic and security goals, and of helping to resolve dangerous disputes in the Mideast and other strategic regions.

We all want to halt the spread of weapons of mass destruction and to combat terrorists, drug traffickers and international crime. And there is a commitment to strengthen the forces around the globe working for human rights, democracy, development, a healthy environment and the rule of law. —

Of course, the issues related to these priorities will not evade scrutiny and debate. Nor should they. While Congress has a responsibility to be reasonable in its expectations, the administration will bear the burden of proof.

It will be our task to establish the link between our broad goals and the issues before us: the expansion of NATO, the containment of rogue regimes, management of important bilateral relationships (including those with China, Russia and Ukraine) and our strategies in often overlooked regions of Latin America, Africa and South Asia.

The complexity of this task has been underlined, even this past week, by questions about Beijing's intentions in Hong Kong, a flare-up of tensions over Cyprus and a new round of violence in Zaire and Rwanda.

The hope that bipartisanship can make the transition from rhetoric to reality will be tested early. On Feb. 6, the president will submit a budget that trims the deficit while meeting international priorities and proposing repayment of our debts to the United Nations and multilateral banks. Enactment of this budget is essential if we are to have the tools to shape events rather than merely react to them.

To maintain American strength, we need not only a world-class military but also world-class diplomacy. Yet in recent years spending on international affairs — typically 1 percent of the federal budget — has been cut sharply, and our diplomatic presence overseas has contracted.

As I present our budget requests to Congress, I recognize my duty to explain our plans and priorities with a logic that Americans can embrace. And I will do all I can to see that taxpayers get full value from their investment.

In another test of bipartisanship, the administration will seek the Senate's early approval for American participation in the Chemical Weapons Convention negotiated under Presidents Ronald Reagan and George Bush. If we do not act before April 29, we will not be an original party to this treaty. This would harm our interests by precluding us from helping to write the rules under which the pact will be verified.

The treaty embodies a commitment to our safety and the protection of our armed forces. It is supported by many in both parties, by the business community and by our military. But it also has its opponents. The American people deserve a healthy debate, in which American interests are weighed and a timely vote is taken.

I have worked in or studied Congress much of my adult life. I know that bipartisanship is a two-way street. I also know that legislators almost always feel that they have been insufficiently consulted on foreign policy matters, while secretaries of state sometimes feel that consulting with Congress is all they do. Bridging this gap in perception will require hard work and good faith.

As secretary of state, I will challenge Congress to be constructive in what it asks of us, but I will keep an open door and an open mind to ensure the fullest possible consultations.

In our democracy, bipartisanship is never absolute. But history has given us the opportunity, at century's end, to recreate the spirit of cooperation that earlier served our nation and world well.

By following the approach of the giants who preceded us — Truman, Eisenhower and Marshall — we can give their generation the homage it merits, and the next generation the security it deserves.

The New York Times.

The Secretary Doesn't Sound Tough on China

By A. M. Rosenthal

NEW YORK — On Jan. 22 and 23, the world press reported that Beijing was moving swiftly now in Hong Kong, getting ready to cancel basic freedoms when Communist China takes over from Britain on July 1.

On Jan. 24, a Clinton foreign affairs official said U.S. relations with China were "multifaceted" and could not be held hostage to any one issue.

On Jan. 26, The New York Times reported in a front-page story by Patrick Tyler, its bureau chief in Beijing, that the half-century-old Politburo crackdown on religion, which had driven millions of Roman Catholic Chinese to worship underground, had been stepped up as part of a new wave of repression begun by President Jiang Zemin.

The same day, the Clinton official said relations with China were "multifaceted" and could not be held "hostage" to any one issue.

It was the routine point and counterpoint on China. The press reports more repression in China, and the Clintonian response is painstakingly plain: The business of the United States is business.

Human rights issues — torture, forced abortion, religious persecution, slave labor — none of that must interfere with business.

But in the past week the official got special attention. This was the new secretary of state talking, Madeleine Albright.

Nobody expected her to say anything startlingly different from what President Bill Clinton had been saying the past three years since he broke his human rights promises to the Chinese and Tibetan people. But because of her reputation for toughness, there was some thought that she might move a smidgeon from the Clinton party line on China.

She did not.

She did not cross the line from toughly carrying out the boss's orders to being tough where it was dangerous — courageous tough, tough enough to signal that on human rights for Chinese she had some thoughts, some misgivings.

Maybe she will cross over another day; too early to give up hope, but burning with a brilliant light it is not.

While we wait, let's at least unspin the hostage story. America is already hostage — not to an American human rights policy, for there is none, but to China's. We cannot rescue ourselves unless we acknowledge that.

Beijing blackmails American companies in the China trade into silence about political and religious repression that is played out under their own noses.

China sells missile and nuclear technology to dictatorships that hate America. China knows that its threats of economic reprisal count in Washington, enough to make the United States slither away from legal sanctions — or discussion with the American public.

On Jan. 23, answering a written question from Senator Bob Bennett, Republican of Utah, Secretary Albright said the United States had received "reporting" about "transfers" from China to Iran of material that could be used in biological warfare. No sanctions were planned, she said. But she did offer the senator a "classified" briefing.

That's nice — unless you think that the American public should know, since the Chinese and Iranian dictatorships already do.

For irony collectors: Andrew J. Nathan of Columbia University writes that it was when the United States did talk of economic penalties for human rights horrors like the Tiananmen slaughter that Beijing made business concessions to America.

Mr. Nathan makes the critical point about why human rights in China are of national interest to the United States. Countries that respect the rights of their citizens are less likely to start wars, export drugs, harbor terrorists, produce refugees. The greater the power of a country without human rights, the greater the danger to the United States.

The dreadful, unexpected reality of America's desertion of Chinese human rights is known to prisoners in the torture cells; count on it.

Wei Jingsheng knows because briefly he was free. He had been sentenced for writing his mind. When they found that the first 14-year term had not broken him, the Communist leaders with whom Mr. Clinton and Mrs. Albright will meet to talk multifacets ordered 14 more years: same Nampu New Life Salt Works Prison, same guards, same isolation cells.

Well, some people must suffer for freedom: tough world. We who live in freedom already, what we have to do is speak up for them. Sometimes we do. Only thing is, sometimes we just have other business.

The New York Times.

China Has Ambitious Military Plans, but It Will Take Time

By Richard Halloran

HONOLULU — President Bill Clinton, outgoing Secretary of Defense William Perry and senior American military leaders delivered two strategic messages, one explicit and the other implicit, to the defense minister of China, Chi Haotian, during his two-week visit to the United States last month.

The first and categorical message was that the United States does not pose a military threat to China. Admiral Joseph Prueher, leader of the Pacific Command that is responsible for contacts with Chinese military leaders and would be charged with fighting China if a war broke out, underscored that point in meetings with Mr. Chi.

Earlier, Secretary Perry asserted in Asia and Washington that the 100,000 U.S. troops in the western Pacific are not "an offensive force or a force that could ever be directed to offensive operations against China." In particular, he contended that the U.S.-Japanese alliance "is not an offensive alliance; it is directed against no nation."

The second and more subtle message was that China's military forces are no match for those of the United States now and will not be for a decade.

The Chinese defense minister was shown U.S. fighter planes, warships, armored forces and the personnel who fly, sail and maneuver them as he traveled across the country.

A Pentagon official told The Associated Press that the visit was intended to give the Chinese "a better appreciation for what is really the most formidable military in the world."

After China threatened to use force against Taiwan last winter so as to warn the island not to declare independence, officials with access to intelligence findings, and private analysts who watch China's armed forces, pored over reports on those exercises and concluded that the Chinese were bluffing, because their military power extends only so far as the People's Liberation Army could walk.

A senior Pentagon analyst, Colonel Karl W. Eikenberry, concluded: "Quite simply, the PLA's punch dissipates exponentially as the distance from the homeland increases."

Beijing's plan is to turn China into the dominant power in Asia by 2029.

Another official said the PLA, which includes all of China's armed forces, was "the world's largest military museum" for its obsolete weapons. A third said the PLA was a "part-time army" because it is extensively engaged in business. All found that China would be only a minor invasion threat to Taiwan for 10 years.

A retired admiral, Eric McVadon, who was once the U.S. defense attaché in Beijing, contended that "an amphibious assault of Taiwan might enter the history books as the million man swim."

An Australian scholar concluded: "China is not in a position to use force. Instead, China is pretending, it is striving, some might say struggling, to maintain credibility."

An exception: Missiles fired into the sea north and south of Taiwan last March were more accurate than expected and could terrorize Taiwan or drive off ships and aircraft if Beijing sought to impose a blockade on the island it considers to be a separated province.

That, however, would be an act of war and would most likely draw retaliation by Taiwan's relatively modern air and naval forces. An unprovoked attack could also mobilize other Asian nations against China and could trigger U.S. intervention.

China has a small nuclear arsenal and conducted a nuclear test in July before agreeing to a moratorium on testing. Analysts expect China to continue building nuclear arms to achieve what its strategists call a "balanced deterrent" in the first half of the 21st century.

Beijing plans to build a modern foundation under the PLA by 2000, to turn China into Asia's dominant power by 2029, and to make China a global power by 2049, the 100th anniversary of the PLA's conquest of China.

If Beijing's military budgets continue upward, China will have a reasonable chance of attaining its goals. Those budgets have tripled since 1989 to reach $32 billion in 1995, according to the International Institute of Strategic Studies in London. That puts China in the same range as Britain, France and Germany.

This budget growth has been possible because China's economy has been growing at 8 to 10 percent a year. With the time needed to produce modern weapons, however, Colonel Eikenberry estimates that for the next 10 to 15 years China "will remain hard-pressed to translate economic gains into significant payoffs for the PLA."

All of this permits the United States to negotiate with China from a position of relative strength.

It does not mean, however, that China can be bullied, because the Chinese are experiencing a surge of emotional, nationalistic pride that could cause them to act irrationally if they considered their sovereignty threatened.

For the longer term, the United States and its allies in Asia have time to persuade Beijing to abide by international political, economic and security rules. Failing that, there is time to assemble a collective deterrent against Chinese aggression.

When you scrutinize Chinese military power, the figure of 3.2 million people in the PLA, the world's largest armed force, is deceptive. Of 2.2 million in the ground forces, half work in factories or engage in what James Mulvenon of the Rand Corporation in California has called "a multibillion-dollar international business empire."

An additional 25 percent of the troops are inadequately trained and equipped. Thus only 25 percent serve in combat-ready units, including 11 rapid reaction brigades. Those 275,000 soldiers comprise an effective army smaller than those of North Korea, South Korea, Vietnam or India, or America's 495,000.

Defense Minister Chi himself illustrates the heavy political influence in China's armed forces. He came up through the ranks of the PLA as a political commissar, not as a combat commander, and was instrumental in employing the armed forces in Beijing in June 1989, when more than 1,000 activists were believed to have been killed.

The strategic rocket force, the air force and the navy have fewer nonmilitary distractions but suffer from obsolete weapons, inadequate training and poor maintenance. A Rand study concludes that the air force does not constitute a credible offensive threat against the United States or its Asian allies, and this situation will not change dramatically over the next decade."

In the exercises last spring, the PLA deployed 150,000 troops, but only 10 percent maneuvered at any one time because of inadequate communications. The PLA could coordinate only a few airplanes, ships and ground units in joint operations at any one time, although they showed improvement over earlier operations. When the weather was bad, fighter planes didn't fly.

In striving to modernize its forces, China has given the air force and navy priority. The PLA air force is buying 50 Su-27 fighters from Russia, plus a license under which the Chinese will produce 150 more. But it will take the Chinese seven to 10 years to produce the aircraft in quantity.

Beijing is said to be seeking three aircraft carriers in the next century because they are symbols that would signal that China intends to be Asia's premier military power.

International Herald Tribune.

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IN OUR PAGES: 100, 75 AND 50 YEARS AGO

1897: King Outmoded

PARIS — The Duc d'Anjou lost his lawsuit contesting the Duc d'Orléans's right to assume the position of "King of France." The First Chamber of the Paris Civil Courts declared that the descendants of Philippe V had no longer any rights to the title of Duc d'Anjou since the accession of the Prince to the Spanish throne. According to the genealogy put forward by the Duc d'Anjou, his claim was secondary to that of Don Carlos, Duke of Madrid. The Court also said that the exercise of the King's power having been abolished by the will of the French people, nobody has the right to call himself "King of France."

1922: Rabbi Outraged

NEW YORK — Rabbi Harris at Temple Israel bitterly attacked marriages of Jews and Gentiles. He cited the Jewish law that such marriages were undesirable and said they were nevertheless increasing to an alarming extent. He maintained that the 3,000,000 Jews in America would be completely absorbed in five generations by the 110,000,000 Christians at the present rate of intermarriage.

1947: Burma Accord

LONDON — An agreement between national leaders of Burma and the labor government on Burma's independence was announced. An interim government is to be established and will take over the functions of the Executive Council of the Governor. A Constituent Assembly will be elected to draft a constitution under which the permanent government will be established. The people of Burma are to choose whether they will leave the Empire or remain allied to the British Crown as a Dominion.

OPINION/LETTERS

Newt: Love Means Never Having to Say He's Sorry

By Richard Cohen

WASHINGTON — Am I alone in thinking there is something odd about Newt Gingrich? I write "odd" with some hesitation and with full realization that it is a vague and somewhat indefinable word. But it suits, I think, a man whose regard for himself is virtually operatic in scale. All by himself, Newt Gingrich is one of the great love stories of all time.

The evidence for such a conclusion — or is it an accusation? — is contained in the 1,300-page report issued by the House ethics committee. In contains the notes, doodles and random thoughts that Mr. Gingrich probably envisioned would someday be exhibited at the Newt Gingrich Museum — along with oral histories from those teachers who early on knew their boy was a genius, destined to lead men if not, as he himself insists, revolutions.

Here, for instance, we have Mr. Gingrich referring to himself as "Definer of civilization," "Teacher of the Rules of Civilization," "Arouser of those who Fan Civilization" and other terms suggesting either the uncanny ability to mimic Soviet-style hagiography or a near-terminal case of megalomania. At one point he refers to himself as "Leader (Possibly) of the civilizing forces" — making him the runner-up to Superman in my book. The Man of Steel was only able to leap tall buildings in a single bound.

At other times, Mr. Gingrich has modestly called himself a "transforming figure" and a "revolutionary." It is the latter, I think, that offers a clue to his behavior since the revolutionary, almost by definition, is not bound by ordinary rules. He has to, you know, break some eggs to make some omelets and this Mr. Gingrich, as the ethics committee has concluded, did over and over again.

In this regard, Mr. Gingrich has proceeded to mischaracterize the action taken by the ethics committee. Speaking in his home district over the weekend, he said the punishment approved by a House vote of 395 to 28 was the fruit of a narrowly partisan effort to get him. He neglected to remind his listeners that the House has a Republican majority and that he, of course, is the speaker. For it to have reprimanded him and approved a $300,000 penalty shows that the evidence against him was compelling.

Mr. Gingrich is a transitional figure between truth and lies, following some rules, breaking others. He can, with polygraph-proof conviction, attribute some of his problems to the liberal media — as he did the other day in Marietta, Georgia. He told the hometown folks that he was, in short, a victim of the left and its perfidiously unethical and incredibly influential press. (The left, incidentally, is convinced it has no press.)

What amazes me is that Washington, a staid town by a modest river, has not pronounced Newt a nut and thrown him over the Beltway in the dark of night. Instead, it has accepted him at his word. He says he's an intellectual and this town says, O.K., you're an intellectual. But when a real intellectual, the conservative scholar James Q. Wilson, was asked to endorse a chapter of the text Mr. Gingrich prepared for his college course, Mr. Wilson panned it instead: "This chapter won't do. It is bland, vague, hortatory and lacking in substance." In other words, a cheap-shot artist would say, it exactly mirrors the author.

To dismiss Mr. Gingrich in a sweeping fashion is, really, what Mr. Gingrich himself would do if he were someone else. I, however, concede the man has his abilities and talents — including, manifestly, an awesome capacity for leadership. His ability to persuade his colleagues that he is both a visionary and button man is no small feat.

But the Gingrich who is so adored by Republican Washington is a mystery to America. Partly that is because the camera does not love him. He says he has a weight problem, but the contemporary American ethic says otherwise: His problem is self-control.

Always, though, Mr. Gingrich has posed as truth-teller — as someone temperamentally incapable of telling a lie, an irrepressibly honest man. The House reprimand changed that and now Mr. Gingrich, in his patently dishonest defense of his actions and his mischaracterizations of his critics, is squandering his reputation for frankness. Once he seemed odd but honest. Now he seems just odd.

The Washington Post.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Hong Kong Alarmism

Regarding "Bad for Hong Kong" (Editorial, Dec. 30):

The editorial treats rankly pessimistic speculation as observable fact and once again fails to acknowledge the Chinese point of view on the legislative standoff precipitated by the departing British.

The method for the selection of Hong Kong's chief executive and the constitution of the legislature were laid out in the Sino-British Joint Declaration (1984) and in the Basic Law (1990). Britain, not China, has attempted to deviate from these legal guidelines.

The statement that Hong Kong's future governance is being assembled "without the slightest accommodation to democracy" is untrue. China has codified the stages under which Hong Kong will proceed to democracy by the year 2007, including the likelihood of a chief executive elected by universal suffrage and a referendum on the method for constituting future legislatures. China has certainly not stripped Hong Kong of its freedom, as the editorial suggests.

Currently, under the British, the Hong Kong legislature is partly directly elected — and partly elected by constituent groups, including business, labor, academia and the professions. While the editorial gives the impression that Britain is defending a democratic legislature and China is opposing one, the truth is that they parted company on the timetable for shifting the balance.

The Chinese have adopted a hands-off policy to Hong Kong's capitalist way of life, legal system and monetary authority. Many in Hong Kong have taken that commitment to heart. Real estate prices, bountiful monetary reserves, a flourishing stock market and — tellingly — the steady repatriation of Hong Kong natives who left during the 1980s all suggest a situation at considerable variance with this alarmist editorial.

ALLEN LEE.
Hong Kong.

The writer is a member of the Hong Kong Legislative Council.

Totally Uncool

Regarding "What Would Really Be Cool? Totally Uncool Cigarettes" (Meanwhile, Jan. 16) by Tibor Kalman:

The central problem of American life is the lack of a natural, spontaneous and confident sense of identity. This article, however well intentioned, confirms the sad perception, long suggested by cinema, commercial music and other manifestations of popular culture, that there is a void at the center of the American soul.

That individuals should be reduced to deriving their identity from a group that defines itself by consuming a given commercial brand (identical, as the author admits, to others, except for packaging) is a problem far greater than whether young people smoke or not. Smoking may kill their bodies, but their minds, apparently, are already dead.

That a whole industry exists to foment and exploit this shortcoming is disgusting, and symptomatic of the rot that has taken hold of America and threatens the rest of the world. If the author wishes to make a difference, he should quit the marketing business altogether and address the central problem: his own identity, and what it means to be himself.

L. de ARRIZABALAGA y PRADO.
Madrid.

Tibor Kalman is totally uncool. Now that he has made his bundle designing packages for cigarettes and other commercial products, he suggests an unworkable solution for reducing the appeal of harmful products to young consumers.

The appearance of generic aspirin has not eliminated promotional wars among brands or reduced the demand for the product. A "generic" approach won't reduce demand for cigarettes either.

ALLAN J. KIMMEL.
Paris.

An African in America Is Baffled by 'Ebonics'

By Reuben Abati

BALTIMORE — Nothing prepared me for the uniqueness of American English and colloquial American speech. Six months after arriving in the United States, I am still in a state of linguistic shock.

To come here from Nigeria, I had to take a test of English as a foreign language at the American Embassy in my country. If I had failed, I wouldn't be here. Which

MEANWHILE

is why I am surprised to discover that there are Americans who cannot speak standard English. To survive in America, I have to understand a broad range of American colloquialisms, and a strange tongue called "Ebonics."

Americans speak of the "elevator" instead of "lift"; instead of "boot," they say "trunk"; for "railway station," they substitute "metro or train"; the college "bus" is called the "shuttle"; instead of "petrol," Americans say "gas."

I have often referred to the small space I share with two colleagues as a "flat," but I am told it is an "apartment." When I refer to my colleagues as "flatmates," I am told they are "roommates" although we do not live in the same room.

Several times, I have heard an American sprinkle a conversation with "Oh my God" and I have always responded with "Sorry," thinking that he or she was in some form of pain. I have since discovered that Americans call on God as a matter of habit, to express surprise, joy, regret, all at once.

But I am not stubborn. I am learning and adjusting. I have realized that the success of my 10-month stay in this country depends on my being able to understand the people. There is perhaps no point complaining.

When I tell Americans that they confuse me with their pronunciation, they tell me I have a funny accent. Or that they have problems understanding the English I speak. Yet I speak simple, standard English as handed down by Her Majesty, the Queen of England's government to the former colonies. The problem is probably with the English language. Every society that inherited it from the English has had to infuse it with local color and experience.

But Ebonics stretches my patience and frustrates me. Often, I meet African-Americans and because they look so familiar, I experience an instant racial bonding. I feel like talking with them to let them know that meeting and seeing them makes me feel at home, as if I am in the midst of my own family.

But this natural identification collapses immediately when the African-American begins to speak Ebonics. On several occasions, I have heard my brothers and sisters in the diaspora say: "Yo!" "She say, he say." "We was." "I is." "I be." This is supposed to be English but it is not English.

At such moments, the genetic coding fails and I am forced to note the difference between nature and nurture. To me, Ebonics is totally unrecognizable, and those who argue that it has a West African origin are merely contriving a thesis to justify nonsense.

True, West Africans speak a kind of English called "pidgin English" but it is the language of the illiterate, a tribute to incompetence, and it bears no resemblance even to Ebonics.

Those who speak pidgin English in West Africa and other parts of Africa would rather speak standard English.

The novelist James Baldwin may have made a case for Ebonics: It may well work as literature and music. African-Americans are also probably entitled to a linguistic "inside baseball." But they should not be encouraged to cling to a dialect that is bound to increase their alienation from their brothers and sisters in Africa, their fellow Americans and the rest of the English-speaking world.

The success of African-Americans and all black people who speak and write good, proper English proves the point that Ebonics is not in the genes. It is certainly not in the African gene.

The writer, a Nigerian journalist studying at the University of Maryland, contributed this comment to The Sun in Baltimore.

BOOKS

WHAT IT MEANS TO BE A LIBERTARIAN: A Personal Interpretation

By Charles Murray. 178 pages. $20. Broadway.

Reviewed by Michael Kazin

THIS is not a book one reviews; this is a book with which one argues. I assume Charles Murray wouldn't want it any other way.

"What It Means to be a Libertarian," despite its humble subtitle, is a bold manifesto for the present and future American Right.

Unlike his earlier best-sellers, Murray's book eschews data sets and psychological theory and goes straight for the ideological jugular. Big government is the source of nearly all our problems, he contends, and a radical downsizing will enable most Americans "to realize whatever potential they have within them" and to "cooperate for the common good without compulsion."

Give the man his due: Murray does think large. Author of two controversial books, "Losing Ground" and "The Bell Curve" (with Richard J. Hernstein), Murray sets forth a challenge to modern liberals that sweeps from principles to proposals to rosy predictions, all in fewer than 200 pages. According to him, true freedom may now be within our grasp because increasing numbers of citizens no longer want the government to do more than prosecute criminals, defend our borders and maintain the national parks.

There is, of course, nothing original about his basic ideas. For over half a century — from the heyday of Friedrich Hayek to the high noon of Newt Gingrich — articulate conservatives have been flogging the same behemoth state and praising the same self-regulating market society. But until now, few have done so in such bracing prose or have been so optimistic about their chances.

Murray, in this book, aims to be a Tom Paine for our times, exposing the reign of liberal error and charting the path toward a promised land that everybody but die-hard bureaucrats can enter.

Luckily for us liberals ("social democrats," he calls us), his thinking is nearly always at odds with a concept Paine made famous: common sense. For a start, consider Murray's curiously romantic version of the past. He believes the United States was a healthier, happier place before the meddlesome New Deal and Great Society began to muck things up. More people took responsibility for their own lives, he beams, and children were taught "to be genuinely courteous" instead of learning "to call other people 'racist' or 'sexist' on the slightest pretext."

Which history books has Murray been reading? Evidently, they neglect to mention that, a century ago, elite white Southerners, those paragons of civility, ruled a region where thousands of black men accused of sexual indiscretions across the color line were castrated and lynched.

His sources must also omit the fact that most wage earners in industrializing America were only a missed paycheck or two away from poverty; their attempts to organize unions often got them fired, assaulted, or both. The worst of such abuses are gone, thanks in part to labor and civil rights laws — and judges who enforce them and hard-working bureaucrats who administer them.

Our champion of liberty has particular disdain for any form of government health insurance. "Paying for your routine medical expenses is part of being a grown-up," Murray writes. It's not clear why this doesn't also apply to education (Murray supports school vouchers) or police protection for individual homes and businesses. As for those unable to afford expensive drugs or visits to the doctor, Murray falls back on nostalgia. If Medicaid and Medicare were scrapped, he confidently predicts, the poor could depend, as before the 1960s, on the kindness of white-coated strangers.

That blithe proposal reveals the obtuseness of Murray's whole approach. If inner-city hospitals keep closing or get converted into for-profit businesses, where will sick people without private insurance go?

Murray seems blind to the ongoing tension between private gain and public responsibility. Obviously, government intervention, by itself, is not the answer to our problems; whether through faulty design or inept practice, it can sometimes make matters worse. But government remains the only common institution Americans have — and the only one whose decisions we can appeal and whose leaders we can change on a regular basis.

As Murray grabs airtime and shelf space, his counterparts on the intellectual left fret endlessly about the limitations of Bill Clinton or anxiously guard their multicultural ramparts. Where are the Charles Murrays of the left — writers who can look the nation straight in the face and tell it uncomfortable tales, but who also have a compelling vision of what the Constitution calls "the general Welfare"? Until they emerge, the right will continue to dominate the debate about our common future.

Michael Kazin's most recent book is "The Populist Persuasion: An American History." He wrote this for The Washington Post.

BEST SELLERS

New York Times

This list is based on reports from more than 2,000 bookstores throughout the United States. Weeks on list are not necessarily consecutive.

FICTION

This Week		Last Week	Wks. on List
1	AIRFRAME, by Michael Chrichton	1	6
2	THE CLINIC, by Jonathan Kellerman	7	2
3	DRUMS OF AUTUMN, by Diana Gabaldon	2	2
4	THE DEEP END OF THE OCEAN, by Jacquelyn Mitchard	3	18
5	THE NOTEBOOK, by Nicholas Sparks	5	14
6	SILENT WITNESS, by Richard North Patterson		1
7	ALIAS GRACE, by Margaret Atwood	8	2
8	EXECUTIVE ORDERS, by Tom Clancy	4	22
9	THE FALLEN MAN, by Tony Hillerman	9	8
10	BLOOD AND HONOR, by W. E. B Griffin	12	2
11	THE LAWS OF OUR FATHERS, by Scott Turow	6	13
12	THE CELESTINE PROPHECY, by James Redfield	13	147
13	SILENT HONOR, by Danielle Steel	10	10
14	THE UNLIKELY SPY, by Daniel Silva		1
15	FALLING UP, by Shel Silverstein	15	30

NONFICTION

1	A REPORTER'S LIFE, by Walter Cronkite	1	6
2	ANGELA'S ASHES, by Frank McCourt	2	19
3	MY SERGEI, by Ekaterina Gordeeva with E. M. Swift	3	11
4	LIVING FAITH, by Jimmy Carter	6	8
5	CONVERSATIONS WITH GOD, by Neale Donald Walsch	8	6
6	THE SOUL'S CODE, by James Hillman	5	10
7	DOGBERT'S TOP SECRET MANAGEMENT HANDBOOK, by Scott Adams	9	14
8	THE DILBERT PRINCIPLE, by Scott Adams	4	39
9	FOREVER, ERMA, by Erma Bombeck	7	11
10	SLOUCHING TOWARDS GOMORRAH, by Robert H. Bork	13	17
11	I'M NOT REALLY HERE, by Tim Allen	10	8
12	UNDAUNTED COURAGE, by Stephen E. Ambrose	12	44
13	DOWN IN THE GARDEN, by Anne Geddes	14	10
14	THE MILLIONAIRE NEXT DOOR, by Thomas J. Stanley and William D. Danko		1
15	JAMES HERRIOT'S FAVORITE DOG STORIES, by James Herriot	11	17

ADVICE, HOW-TO AND MISCELLANEOUS

1	MAKE THE CONNECTION, by Bob Greene and Oprah Winfrey	1	18
2	MEN ARE FROM MARS, WOMEN ARE FROM VENUS, by John Gray	3	192
3	SIMPLE ABUNDANCE, by Sarah Ban Breathnach	2	42
4	THE PATH TO LOVE, by Deepak Chopra		1

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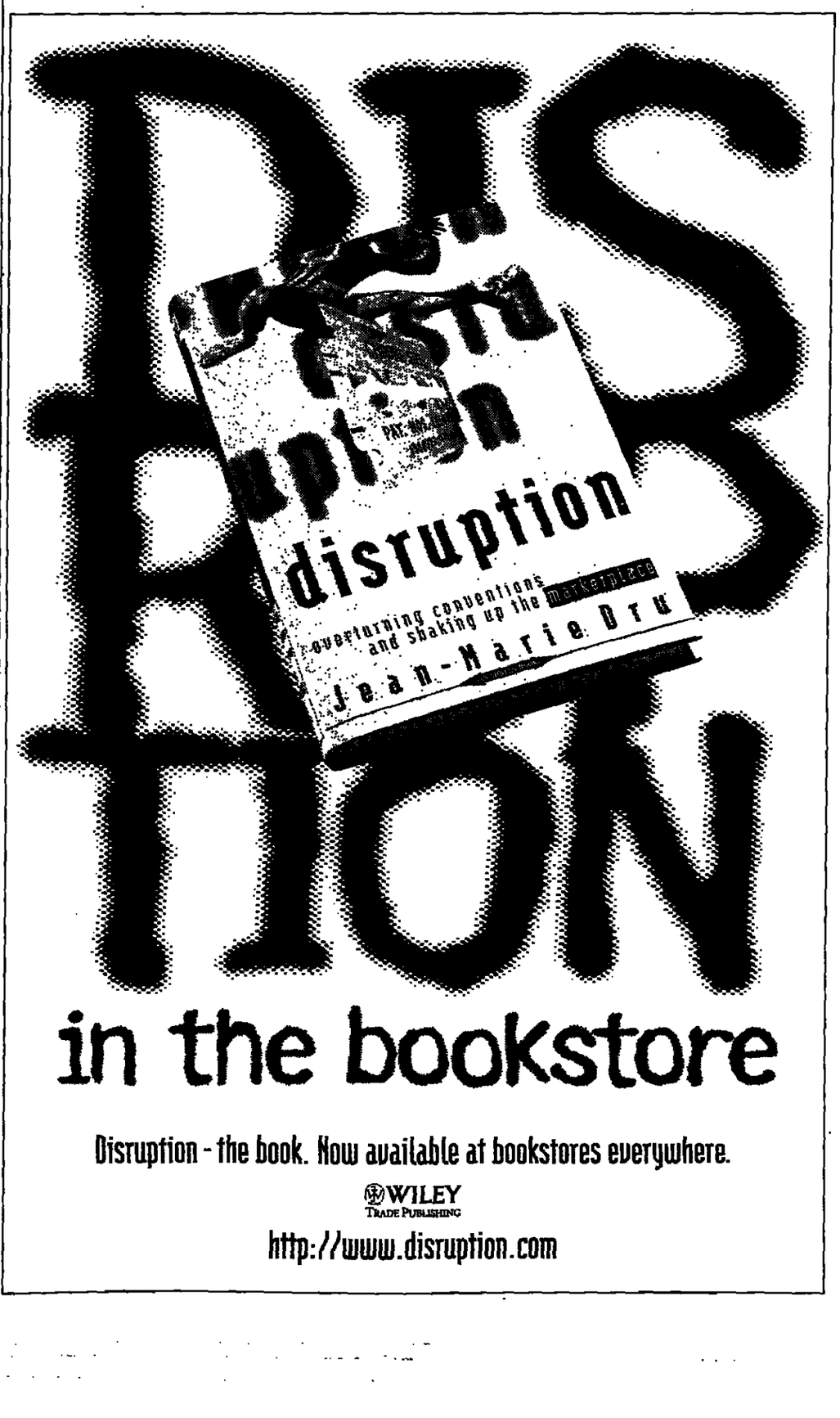


Gunman Kills Union Leader, Foe of Rebels, In Algeria

The Associated Press

ALGIERS — A gunman on Tuesday killed an influential Algerian union leader who was a political ally of President Liamine Zeroual's, union officials said.

The unidentified attacker shot Abdelhaq Benhamouda, 55, with an automatic pistol, emptying the weapon's ammunition into his body, the officials said on condition of anonymity.

The man then killed one of Mr. Benhamouda's bodyguards and another union official who came running after hearing the shots, possibly with a second weapon, the officials said.

The shooting was followed less than four hours later by a booby-trapped parcel that exploded in the Algerian garrison town of Blida, 50 kilometers south of the capital, killing one person and wounding 17, the Algerian security forces said.

Mr. Benhamouda was an outspoken critic of Islamic militants, whose five-year insurgency against the military-backed government has left more than 60,000 people dead.

He had applauded the army for stepping in to cancel 1992 legislative elections that Muslim fundamentalist parties were poised to win, a move that triggered the insurgency.

Mr. Benhamouda had led a committee that opposed Islamic fundamentalism, and had been shot and wounded twice since the insurgency began. His brother was killed two years ago.

Secretary-general of the country's largest labor organization, the General Union of Algerian workers, Mr. Benhamouda backed Mr. Zeroual in the presidential elections last fall.

Armando Babani/Agence France-Presse

President Sali Berisha, center, waving to supporters as bodyguards surrounded him Tuesday in Tirana.

Guards Whisk Albanian Leader From Rally

Reuters

TIRANA, Albania — President Sali Berisha, poised to address a crowd of cheering rightist Democratic Party supporters, left the main square in Tirana on Tuesday, surrounded by security guards amid fears for his safety.

Mr. Berisha had made his way on foot from the town hall in central Skanderbeg Square through a crowd of about 6,000 supporters toward the Palace of Culture.

As the crowd pressed in toward Mr. Berisha, security guards, apparently fearing the situation could get out of control, rushed him up the steps of the Palace of Culture and inside the building.

The mayor of Tirana, Albert Brojka, then appeared to tell supporters to disperse peacefully, indicating the president had left.

The governing Democratic Party, in an apparent effort to avoid any escalation of the violence that has hit Albania recently following the collapse of pyramid investment schemes, dropped its original plans to carry out a protest outside the headquarters of the opposition Socialist Party.

Protests have swept the Balkan state for two weeks as thousands of investors face the prospect of losing all their money.

The protesters link the end of payouts to the arrest of the pyramid operators. They blame the government for their arrest and are demanding their release.

The International Monetary Fund has offered to help the Albanian government overcome the financial crisis, an agency official said Tuesday.

WALES: *Foreign Investment Creates Jobs but Fails to Inspire the Expected Affluence*

Continued from Page 1

Only now that the gap has nearly vanished has a new awareness begun to dawn.

It is a growing sense that something is missing — the prosperity that flows not from assembly-line jobs but from those in the higher-paid realms of finance, advertising and design.

"Wrongly, as it turned out, we thought that the service sector would come in on the back of a vibrant manufacturing sector," said Brian Morgan, chief economist at the Welsh Development Agency.

As a result, he concedes, gross domestic product per head in Wales as measured against the rest of Britain has held fast at around 15 percent for the last 20 years.

With hindsight, the successes of the past are being reassessed and frequently found wanting.

Take one of the earliest of those, Panasonic's decision to set up shop on a 50-acre (20-hectare) site outside Cardiff 20 years ago.

Today that sprawling facility turns out 1.3 million television sets and 900,000 microwave ovens a year, but very little affluence.

"At the moment we have 2,500 people working here and just over 400 quality jobs," said David Fowler, company secretary for Panasonic's European television division, referring to higher skilled and higher paying jobs.

With some discomfort, David Rowe-Beddoe, chairman of the Welsh agency, recounts the story of recently watching a teacher leading her class along a state-of-the-art assembly line in an ultramodern Welsh factory.

"If you don't study hard," she warned her charges, "you will end up working in a place like this."

What worries many analysts about such places even more than their relatively low pay and low job satisfaction levels is their ephemerality in today's global economy.

Unfortunately for a principality of 3 million that now finds 35 percent of its manufacturing sector owned from abroad, experience has shown that foreign-owned companies with few ties to a region beyond an appreciation of low costs loom as the flightiest of the lot.

Ruth Lewis, a 56-year-old assembly line leader at Alberto-Culver's new factory in Swansea, has seen it first hand.

Six years ago her employer, the computer chipmaker Siliconix, which is based in California, moved to cheaper manufacturing sites in Malaysia and the Philippines with three months' notice, leaving behind 300 workers in the valleys of south Wales.

Luckily, Mrs. Lewis quickly found work and she insists, satisfaction, with another inward investment catch, a manufacturer of hair-care products, Alberto-Culver, which is also based in the United States.

But even after several promotions her salary is far less than her old one.

More fortunate is Rachel Stevens, a supervisor in the customer services department of Align-rite, a company based in California that makes patterns for computer chips in southern Wales.

There, in a pair of clean rooms bathed in yellow light, workers in full surgical costume oversee computer driven tools etching their designs onto quartz discs.

There the skills are high and the pay is good. And, said Ms. Stevens, "We get two bonuses a year."

What worries some in government and the private sector is that the price of those jobs has gotten out of hand.

Corporate site-selection committees have long been swayed by the quantity of subsidies available.

In the case of LG Group, the Welsh Development Agency's aid runs from building the plants to setting up mock assembly lines to train the staff.

The total subsidy has been reported to run as high as £30,000 for each of the 6,500 jobs that LG will create. "The whole thing has gotten completely out of hand, starving other projects of needed funding," said a Welsh development official.

As the subsidies have risen so too has the anger of local business people who find themselves competing against some of the foreign firms.

"Oh to be Korean or Japanese instead of having to compete against all those people with all their subsidies," said Ken Vaughan, managing director of A. McLay & Co., a 100-year-old Welsh printing firm.

Officials want more for their money, too.

Increasingly they strive to persuade foreign investors to do more of their research and design locally.

In the case of Panasonic's television-making arm, after two decades in Wales, the company has recently begun to explore the possibility of opening a research and design center there.

If it goes ahead, it would double the number of the company's "quality" jobs to 200.

In the meantime, Wales would also like its manufacturers to buy not just Welsh components but also Welsh banking, insurance and advertising services.

For years, said Mr. Morgan, the development agency has prided itself on its knowledge of where companies like Sony Corp. buy everything from circuit boards to packing cartons — ever on the lookout to substitute a local product for an imported one.

"But we never thought to ask them where they bought their marketing advice or their financial services," he said.

That too is now changing as the agency turns its attention to doing for the service sector what it has been doing in manufacturing for two decades, acting as a broker between local talent and foreign need.

CHINA: *U.S. Report Slams Rights Abuses*

Continued from Page 1

Over the long run, he said, "being engaged with China, working with them where we can agree" as well as "continuing to be honest and forthright and insistent where we disagree, has the greatest likelihood of having a positive impact on China."

But the State Department report to be issued Thursday paints a particularly bleak picture of human rights conditions in China.

■ **Dissent Crushed in China**

Steven Erlanger of The New York Times reported earlier:

According to administration officials, the annual report on human rights conditions concludes that by the end of 1996, all active dissidents in China had been imprisoned or exiled.

One official on Monday described the Chinese success at wiping out active dissent as "an accomplishment even post-Stalinist Russia could not achieve."

A China expert outside the government who has seen the draft report said that it is "hard-hitting" and makes no effort to "disguise China's retreat on human rights in 1996."

The report on China, one of 193 reports on human rights around the world, is also one of the most sensitive.

There is something of an annual ritual now in sharp criticism of China in the human rights report, followed by policy decisions that play down the importance of human rights in the overall relationship compared with other issues like trade, Taiwan, arms sales, missile and nuclear proliferation, and Beijing's help in controlling regional actors like North Korea.

A group of officials is on the way to China to discuss human rights and other issues. Those officials will try to persuade the Chinese to make significant gestures on human rights that could justify the dropping by Washington of its co-sponsorship of an annual resolution condemning China at the United Nations Commission on Human Rights in Geneva.

The Chinese are already lobbying to defeat the introduction of a resolution at the commission, which meets in early March and runs through April 18. The United States must decide soon whether to co-sponsor a resolution, as it has for the last seven years, to allow the measure any chance of success.

Killing Audubon's Marsh

Wetland Where Artist Played Is Imperiled By Policy of French Who 'Detest Nature'

By Charles Trueheart
Washington Post Service

COUERON, France — John James Audubon, America's greatest observer, collector and painter of native bird life, used to neglect his studies in school so that he could roam the fields and marshes around this French village, his home town.

Every evening, according to a biographer, "he would return with his lunch basket laden with the spoils of the day — birds' nests, eggs and curiosities of every sort destined for the museum into which his room had already been transformed."

Audubon left Coueron and France in 1806 to make his name in the young nation across the ocean, most famously with his majestic book "Birds of America." But the marsh that first inspired his art and his vocation still clucks and twitters here in the estuary of the Loire River, far downstream from the great chateaux.

Hawk and heron, teal and lapwing live in the tall brush and skimpy trees. But like many an unglamorous wetland in the great river estuaries of France, the Audubon Marsh is in danger.

Tucked between Nantes and St. Nazaire, two stagnant port cities near France's Atlantic coast, the 300-hectare (750-acre) marsh that wraps around Coueron has been designated as for use as a dump for the nasty muck drained from the bottom of the Loire ship channel that serves the ports.

Were that to happen, the flora and fauna that eke out a living where young Audubon played would be rubbed out. The great birdman, at a guess, would be dismayed.

That is the reed at which Michel Chomienne is grasping as he seeks to protect the marsh from what he sees as an ill-considered economic development strategy and to preserve it as a piece of French cultural heritage.

"Audubon has been completely forgotten in France," Mr. Chomienne said. "Yet the French are proud of their contributions to humanity's 'grandeur' and convinced of the notion of 'French genius.' Our leaders have to recognize that you can't neglect the memory of a man who brought so much to the American nation."

Audubon was born Jean-Jacques Fougere Audubon in 1785 in what is now Haiti. His father was a French seaman, his mother an American Creole. He was taken to France in 1789, and, growing up here by the marsh, he began to draw birds at 15. When he was 20, he emigrated to the United States. His father set him up in business there, but Audubon soon abandoned it for full-time bird portraiture and equally tireless promotion of his work.

To draw attention to the threatened marsh, Mr. Chomienne, a Coueron resident and former Nantes-St. Nazaire port authority executive, is trying to drum up a little pride in the illustrious native son — and to elicit the right kind of pressure from, among others, the president of France and the National Audubon Society of the United States.

"The marsh's ornithological value may not be exceptional," Mr. Chomienne said on a recent tour of the unprepossessing village and its marsh. "But on the symbolic level it's very important."

The Bird Protection League, France's major bird lobby, begs to differ on the first count. A bird called the corncrake, a rail that nests in significant numbers in Audubon Marsh, is endangered by creeping agriculture and urbanization and is fast disappearing across Europe. (European environmental officials say the Coueron marsh's exceptional importance as a bird habitat remains scientifically unproved.)

But Mr. Chomienne is right about the symbolism.

France lags far behind its neighbors in its environmental protections. "One can say categorically that the French detest nature," a French ornithologist, Jean-Francois Terrasse, told the magazine Nouvel Observateur this month. "Those who protect it are always accused of being against people."

The European Union said recently that it would pursue legal action against France for noncompliance with European directives on bird-life conservation. Despite pressures from Brussels, the French government has yet to certify many of the most important wetlands in France as zones worthy of special protection, preferring to keep them available for industrial, shipping, nuclear power and other development.

Under pressure from the port and politicians who favor development, the French government has excluded the Audubon Marsh from protective zoning, raising the possibility that its fate and that of many other sensitive wetlands could become a matter of dispute between French and European environmental authorities.

The marsh that first inspired Audubon may be smothered in muck from a ship channel.

A judgment by the European Court of Justice last summer said that member states may not authorize the removal of protections on ecologically fragile wetlands for economic reasons. The court's broad and unambiguous language, one European official predicted, will lead to major jurisdictional battles in coming years.

One possible explanation for the French lack of interest in nature is that — in contrast to such neighbors as Britain, Germany and the Netherlands — France has low population density, which means its natural resources are not so crowded or taxed, and thus its environmental consciousness is less developed.

For example, the Royal Society for the Preservation of Birds, the main British bird organization, claims nearly 1 million members. France's Bird Protection League, in a country of equal population, has not quite 25,000.

Nonetheless, the French remain deeply attached to the land and to their pursuit of happiness, and secondary income, upon it. Lots of people in Coueron, Mr. Chomienne acknowledged, may not care much about bird habitats or Jean-Jacques Audubon, though they like a pristine place such as Audubon Marsh to fish and hunt.

Mr. Chomienne is hoping that Audubon Marsh might be a modest attraction to ecotourists, birders and cyclists passing through this pleasantly level part of France.

The attraction would be the marsh itself, marked with ornithological and historical signs. Mr. Chomienne thinks it might even support a restaurant and a bed-and-breakfast in town.

He hopes, through international exposure, to gather signatures from around the world for a petition addressed to President Jacques Chirac requesting protection for the marsh in Coueron — if not for the birds, then as a modest gesture of French-American ties that go back to the time of Jean-Jacques Audubon.

BIKO: *5 Former Policemen Admit Killing*

Continued from Page 1

that created a Truth and Reconciliation Commission and empowered it to investigate, but not prosecute, human-rights abuses that may have been committed all along the political spectrum.

In a pattern similar to that of other nations torn by brutal dictatorial pasts, the truth panel in South Africa is to compile an official history of apartheid-era abuses on the theory that the pain of the past must be fully aired before it can be put to rest. As more and more details of apartheid-era atrocities have come to the fore through the truth commission's investigations, the men involved have felt compelled to go to the commission, their lawyer said, by a threat of prosecution in the courts.

In addition to the Biko death, the police officials have told the truth panel they were responsible for:

- The nonfatal beating of Peter Cyril Jones, who was arrested along with Mr. Biko in 1977.
- The April 1982 killings of Siphiwe Mtimkulu and Tapsy Madaka. They were abducted, taken to an abandoned police station, drugged and shot in the head. "Their bodies were placed on a wood pyre and burned for about six hours," a truth commission statement said. "The remaining fragments of bone were thrown into the Fish River."
- The May 1985 killings of Sipho Charles Hashe, Qaqawuli Godolozi and Champion Galele of the Port Elizabeth Black Civic Association. They were killed through the same shooting, burning and disposal process.
- The June 1985 killings of Matthew Goniwe, Fort Calata, Sparrow Mkhonto and Sicelo Mhlawuli. They were beaten, mutilated and burned, but their bodies were recovered. One of Mr. Mhlawuli's hands was missing, and it is believed that the police kept it in a jar at their offices.

SYRIA: *Political Struggle Appears to Be Unfolding in Damascus*

Continued from Page 1

cessor. These people say that it is probably no coincidence that Bashar Assad, who was trained in Britain to be an ophthamologist and who had apparently given no thought to a political future until an elder brother was killed in an automobile accident three years ago, has been portrayed recently in the Syrian press as something of a Mr. Clean.

"The president has had it with his brothers and their sons, and he's trying to do something about it," a prominent Syrian said, presenting a view that is widely held within the diplomatic and business community.

Jemil Assad, 64, who grew rich by extracting commissions on business activity in Tartous and Latakia, spawned so much resentment there that he has harmed the family's stature, the diplomats and prominent Syrians say.

They say that Rifaat Assad, 59, who assembled squadrons of tanks in Damascus in an attempt to overthrow his brother in 1983, is suspected of trying to renew his ties to the military.

Jemil Assad's departure for Paris late last month has not been reported in the official media here. Diplomats in Damascus said they have been able to confirm it only within the last two weeks or so.

Diplomats also said they were struck by the fact that while Mr. Assad was reported to have attended a Jan. 21 wreath-laying ceremony on the third anniversary of the death of his son Basel, the president was the only senior official present whose photograph was not published.

Syrian officials say that he was probably not pictured at his son's grave because it was a personal family moment.

Mr. Assad has a history of heart trouble and diabetes, but there is no evidence that he is suffering from anything more serious now than the after-effects of surgery. But it has been more than 26 years since he seized power, and people have begun to wonder whether the latest moves might be related to the question of who will succeed him.

Under the Syrian Constitution, the leader of Parliament takes temporary charge upon the death of the president, to await the governing Ba'ath Party's nomination of a candidate to be presented to the Parliament and to voters for ratification. Mr. Assad has said that he does not have an opinion about who should take his place.

Bashar Assad, the second of Assad's four sons, had shown no interest in politics or in the military, the historic route to power in Syria. But immediately after his brother's death in 1994, he cut short his medical studies to return to Syria and enroll in the military staff college, from which he is to graduate in April.

The inner affairs of the government remain murky enough that the diplomats and Syrians, who all spoke on condition of anonymity, said it was impossible to judge to what extent the crackdowns might have been intended to eliminate possible rivals to the succession and to what extent they were intended to rid the regime of a widening taint of corruption.

"Hafez Assad clearly wants to be succeeded by his son," a diplomat said. "And if you ask me whether all this is about securing the future or polishing the present, I would say that it is probably both."

■ **Assad Attends Meeting**

President Assad held his first official meeting Tuesday since leaving the hospital three weeks ago, Agence France-Presse reported from Damascus.

Mr. Assad was briefed by Vice President Abdel Halim Khaddam on his two-day visit to Saudi Arabia and Kuwait, a presidential spokesman said.

INVEST: *Hoping to Take the Market's Pulse Safely, Americans Are Rushing Headlong Into Index Funds*

Continued from Page 1

large number of stocks with the safer approach of spreading money among stocks, bonds and cash.

In the past decade, the amount of mutual-fund money invested in the most widely held stock index funds has risen more than a hundredfold, to $65 billion — a growth rate 18 times that of the overall fund industry. Much of that money found its way to index funds in just the past two years.

The largest index fund, the Vanguard Index 500, is gaining rapidly on the largest of all mutual funds, Fidelity Magellan. Now even mutual fund giants such as Fidelity Investments and Merrill Lynch & Co., which have long boasted of the prowess of their money managers, have moved to offer investors more index funds of their own.

With their typically low costs, index funds are one of the best ways to invest in the broad stock market, which has historically outperformed nearly all other investments. But what has caught the attention of recent investors is not just the long-run potential of index funds, but their short-term payoff.

Over the past three years, index funds that track the S&P 500 performed better for their shareholders than did 93 percent of the 2,400 mutual funds that rely on money managers to pick and choose among a broad array of American stocks.

That has not always been the case. There have been long periods in which most of the actively managed stock funds outperformed the indexes.

Mr. Brennan of Vanguard, which is the largest seller of index funds, said he had heard an abundance of callers describe index funds as "safe options" this month when he answered calls from individual investors on the company's toll-free sales line.

"That sends up all kinds of red flags for us," he said.

Partly, that misunderstanding is a function of ignorance, but it also reflects the fact that those who have started investing only in the past few years have never experienced a bear market.

What will happen when the overall stock market goes down, of course, is that an index fund will fall just as much, perhaps more. Unlike a general stock fund, an index fund cannot hold cash or other instruments to protect itself against a market decline.

Moreover, the index funds are weighted by a company's market value, so movements in the prices of the biggest stocks have an outsized effect on the performance of the index. Those big stocks have been the most successful in the recent market run-up. In a downturn, they might well fall farther than stocks that have not risen so much.

Index funds, by their very nature, undermine the central tenet of the mutual-fund business — that individual investors who do not have time to manage their own money should trust a financial professional to trade on their behalf.

But if index funds, which are much less profitable for the industry than traditional mutual funds, can consistently outperform professional stock-pickers, investors are likely to demand better results to justify the higher fees charged by most other mutual funds.

هذا من الأصل

STAGE/ENTERTAINMENT

TOMORROW: HEALTH SCIENCE

Christian Rose

Shawntae Harris's official bio says she's a writer, a shrewd businesswoman and an up-and-coming actor.

The Rap Star as Brat Next Door

By Mike Zwerin
International Herald Tribune

PARIS — When she was still little Shawntae Harris, growing up in Chicago, people had learned to expect her next tantrum. She was infamous. Now known as Da Brat, she has released an album called "Anuthatantrum" (Columbia).

"Everyone used to call me a spoiled brat," she said. "At first I thought it was a bad thing. But when I began to grow up, I saw that it's not so bad after all. It's a good way to get a lot of things you want. I'm spoiled rotten. I'll be a brat for the rest of my life."

"You don't seem like a brat," ventured an adult Anglo-Saxon voice in the room.

"Maybe I've got a good disguise," she said.

Attitude is central to a rapper's act and she illustrated hers by lighting up in her suite, a hotel-designated non-smoking area. The aroma floated over a conference table with notepads and pencils and bottles of juice neatly laid out on it (no ashtrays).

The ambience was reminiscent of a regional sales conference in a franchised hotel near the railroad station, which is basically what it was. (One difference: Some of the delegates wore shaved heads, dreads and NBA caps backwards.) Now 22 years old, Da Brat had been the first female solo rapper to sell one million units, and she is the biggest selling female solo rapper to date.

Her core audience, roughly 17 to 27 years old, considers the parental advisory sticker as something of a plug. (One track praises Acapulco Gold. There's also a clean version for kids.)

Her official printed bio introduces her: "Hey, y'all, meet Da new Brat. Under all that Triple-X denim, Brat is also a stunning beauty. She's a rhymer, a writer, a shrewd businesswoman and an up-and-coming actor."

"Da new Brat" played the role of Kameesha, the "loyal girlfriend of the basketball playing star" in a low-budget movie called "Full Court Press." During the filming, she says, she felt like: "Hey! This right here might show people what I can do. Let them see me do someone other than Da Brat. A real role, like Angela Bassett. Queen Latifa did a part that sold like eight million the first weekend. She's a role-model for me. Acting is all about being different anyway. I don't want to be just another ghetto black girl who drinks and smokes or whatever.

"When I did that movie, I had to forget about who I was and not pout or be a brat. I never had any doubts about myself, about me just going out and doing it. I wasn't coached, I never had acting lessons. I wasn't nervous. The only problem was that I had to wear a skirt, and I don't like skirts. But it was a dope part."

"Dope," she explained, is "a ghetto way to say good. You can say 'that sure is a dope outfit.' It's like fly: 'Damn, you look fly tonight.' At home we even got a Fly magazine.

"I know I probably shouldn't be so ghetto and cussing and everything in this interview. Because you've got to edit this stuff. I'm trying to make it as easy as possible. But when I'm around all my homies, I talk like . . . well, I don't want to talk like that with you because we're doing business. There's a time and a place for everything."

SHE'S been rapping since the age of 11. First "roses are red, violets are blue, I love you . . ." Then one day her mother got on her nerves and she got on a new level — something like "you make me sick and I hate you." That made her feel better. Rapping relieves stress. She plays the drums and that helps too. She first played drums in church: "My mom's mom was sanctified — she was Pentecostal. My life was constant church. But my dad's mom, she wasn't church. So I got to be a bad loud brat out here with one grandma, but I bid it with the other one that went to church.

"Even when I cuss and talk about smoking weed to the people who love me, even if they don't like what I'm saying, like my grandma, she knows she raised me right. She knows I'm not going to kill myself because I'm high, or kill somebody else. She knows I've got some sense because of the way she raised me."

"Are you sure she knows that?"

"Oh yeah. She's assured me. My grandmother, she's 70-something and she teaches dance classes to clean versions of my music. My auntie is an accountant, and she's also my business manager. She has a degree in tax accounting, and she has her own firm. She's really honest, she helps me budget my money, she's buying me a computer. I got stocks and bonds. I'm blessed."

The blessing began back in Chicago when the rapper Kris Kross called some kids to perform on stage during his show. Little Shawntae just blew every one away. Kris Kross's security took her backstage to meet him and they talked. Then, she says: "Kris Kross told the hip hop genius, the master of southern fried funk Jermaine Dupri about how dope I was."

The well-known producer Dupri lived in Atlanta. She must have called Atlanta 20 times a day. She could never get through. Finally an airline stewardess friend got her a buddy pass to fly cheap and she tracked Dupri down.

He invited her to his house and put on a beat machine: "I don't know what he on Jermaine's mind to come up with the things he do. Each day he comes with a fatter track. I started rapping about everything in the room. And then about the things I've been through in my life. When that beat is on, man, I can rap all night.

"My belief is about keeping focused, keeping it simple and never taking a step backwards."

Truly Pinteresque Pinter

By Sheridan Morley
International Herald Tribune

LONDON — Why were we always so afraid to laugh at, or at any rate with, Harold Pinter? When "The Homecoming" first opened in 1965 at the Aldwych, I seem to remember reverent silences on stage and in the auditorium, and a willing suspension of disbelief that this

LONDON STAGE

was the same dramatist who only a few years earlier had been writing hilariously sinister revue sketches for comics like Kenneth Williams and Peter Cook, not that there were ever many like them.

Thirty years on, an admirable revival at the National Theatre by Roger Michell makes it clear that this is indeed the Pinter of the revue sketches, and much of at least the first half of the Lyttelton production is bleakly, blackly, hilariously funny.

Of all Pinter plays, "The Homecoming" is probably the most immediately accessible. It is a thumbnail sketch of what we mean by Pinteresque. A grotesque North London family, many of whose cousins were soon to appear in the works of Joe Orton, send their newly acquired relative, in this case a glacial Lindsay Duncan, to try her luck and theirs on the streets of Soho as a prostitute.

Like so many of his other plays, "The Homecoming" is about sexual violence and the territorial imperative; it also affords half a dozen truly wonderful parts, and is perhaps the only Pinter in which these parts are in the end greater than the whole.

Menace and ambiguity, which any first-year drama student will tell you are the playwright's special stock-in-trade, are not so readily apparent here; instead we have a magnificently plotted drama dominated by the character of Lenny, a vintage semi-literate thug ("Apart from the known and the unknown, what else is there?") superbly underplayed here by Michael Sheen. Whether arranging for his sister-in-law to go on the streets, or merely paying filial obeisance to his Dad ("I respect him not only as a father but also as a first-class butcher"), Lenny is one of the great creations of the modern theater.

True, here as in Peter Hall's current "Streetcar," the designer has taken a curious decision to set a claustrophobic piece in a space that could handsomely accommodate several armies — though at least we do get to see a loft crammed with all the detritus of a long nonfunctional family. Michell has wisely cast such vintage television comics as Sam Kelly and the magnificently lugubrious David Bradley. I don't believe there is a better revival in London at present, nor a better introduction to Pinter as a comic dramatist and master of the sinister and the seriously strange.

Royal National Theatre

Lindsay Duncan as Ruth in Harold Pinter's "The Homecoming" at the Lyttelton.

AT the Young Vic Studio, Clare Bayley's "The Shift" is, like many plays by former drama critics, sometimes too reflectively clever for its own good, not so much well written as well remembered from greater and lesser works.

There is certainly considerable ambition here. Her play is billed as "cross-media," which just means that there's a closed-circuit video screen on stage and the cast sometimes act to the camera instead of us. It is also billed as "devised by author and cast," which usually means that nobody could quite get it right. But along its complex way "The Shift" does manage to tell us a good deal about its six female characters as we flash backward and forward in their lives from 1947 to 1968 to the present.

"The Way We Were" it isn't: Bayley's eventual aim is to explore what has happened to three generations of intelligent and sometimes radical women, Ophelias all, trying not to drown or get carried away by the wrong prince. Andy Lavender directs an agile cast led by Laura Macaulay and Catherine Cusack in a production of limited resources but considerable resource. I'd like to know what really happened to their menfolk, but that is probably to court accusations of male chauvinism.

As for female chauvinism, I have to admit that I have come late to the joys of "Fascinating Aida" (Vaudeville). In one form or another, this three-woman sing-along has been around festivals and cabaret stages since the early 1980s.

The good news is that "Fascinating Aida" is now fascinatingly better, partly due to some brilliant new songs, not the least of which is a heartbreaking lament by a mother for a child she once ignored and who now no longer needs her; another is a rueful reminder that the tramps who sleep in boxes under the bridges of London have conveniently already neatly packaged themselves for interment.

Several other numbers strike me still as a little sub-Brel or even substandard, but it's not that often you get to hear a good Richard Gere gerbil joke in a rhyming lyric.

The best news of all is the addition to the group of the great and glorious and considerably eccentric Issy Van Randwyck, far away the most exciting and exotic cabaret talent this country has produced in the last decade even if she does happen to be a Dutch Baroness. And when did you last get a really good laugh from one of those ?

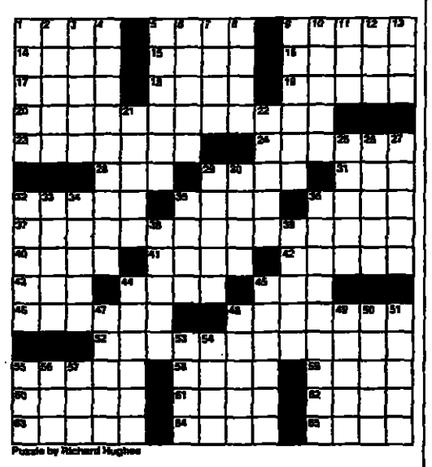
CROSSWORD

ACROSS

1 Picket line panah
5 Singer McEntire
9 Laissez——
14 "Winnie —— Pu"
15 Hagman TV co-star
16 Clinker
17 Café au ——
18 Très ——
19 Air Jordans
20 Patriotic cheer for the tricolor
23 Chocolate on a hotel pillow, e.g.
24 Sycophant
28 "Bravo!"
29 Bother
31 Bother
32 Central courts
35 Boxers, derogatorily
36 Dennis the Menace, at times
37 Advice in solving some mysteries
40 Communications prefix
41 Like mud
42 Rest stops
43 Actress Hagen
44 Scrawny
45 Bearded beast
46 Finally makes good on a debt
48 Was successful, slangily
52 Phrase of resignation
55 Neck
58 Numbskull
59 Window part
60 Forbidden
61 *Spy in a* 1962 exchange
62 Plane, e.g.
63 Sends forth
64 Change the décor
65 Sicilian province or its capital

DOWN

1 Forest, to Fabius
2 Prospector's filing
3 Still with us
4 Bugbear
5 Sales lure
6 Enlighten
7 Suds
8 Actress Magnani
9 1987 Tony-winning play
10 Zodiac start
11 Perturb
12 Caviar
13 Hems and haws
21 Pale purple
22 Sour gum tree
25 Schoolteachers of old
26 "There Is Nothin' Like ——"
27 Observes
29 Unclear
30 Nasty
32 Misbehave
33 *It's between eta* and iota
34 Kind of station
35 Menial
36 Noble act
38 Basketball, informally
39 Melted cheese dish
44 Like the Alres of Argentina
45 Male escort
47 Go quickly
49 Bewildered
50 Heavenly hunter
50 Acrylic fiber
51 Street on TV
53 Skiers' aid
54 Ear part
55 Jeanne d'Arc, e.g.: Abbr.
56 Popular cooking spray
57 Sash



Puzzle by Richard Hughes

© *New York Times/Edited by Will Shortz.*

Solution to Puzzle of Jan. 28

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THE WORLD'S DAILY NEWSPAPER

Continued on Page 18

هكذا من الأصل

Herald International Tribune
BUSINESS/FINANCE
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 29, 1997

Stock Split Fuels IBM Rebound

2-for-1 Move Takes Market by Surprise

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

NEW YORK — International Business Machines Corp., aiming to give a boost to its recently battered stock, announced a 2-for-1 split Tuesday that helped fuel a rally in one of the world's most widely held stocks.

IBM, the biggest computer maker in the world, said its board had approved the split subject to shareholders approving an increase in its number of authorized common shares. It would mark the first time in almost 18 years that IBM had split its shares. It last did so in June 1979.

IBM's stock, which had fallen 13 percent since the company reported fourth-quarter earnings that disappointed Wall Street last week, bounced back, rising $5, or 2.9 percent, to $175 on the New York Stock Exchange.

The move came as a surprise to some analysts, who had expected IBM to wait until the stock's price passed its all-time high of $174.75 set in August 1987.

Still, a split is usually interpreted as a sign that the company believes its stock will continue to rise.

"It's a good psychological boost," said Phil Schettewi, managing director at Loomis, Sayles & Co. John Jones, a Salomon Brothers analyst, upgraded his rating on IBM's stock to a "strong buy" from "buy" but did not comment further. The company said the board had proposed more than doubling the authorized number of common shares to 1,875,000,000 from 750 million It set the stock split for May 27 to shares of record May 9.

IBM's stock has risen 70 percent in the past six months, but it slumped on the report released Jan. 21 that its earnings rose 18 percent to $2 billion in the fourth quarter, amid concern about slower growth this year. Several analysts cut their ratings on the stock.

Despite the rally Tuesday, some analysts predicted that IBM shares would not break out of their current range until there were signs that the company's mainframe-computer sales were starting to improve.

(Reuters, Bloomberg)

Derrick Cheung, left, and Mehdi Bakhtiari working on a camera for National Geographic's Natural History Unit. Susan Biddle

National Geographic Explores TV

By Paul Farhi
Washington Post Service

WASHINGTON — Next month, the cameras will begin rolling on "Stanley and Livingstone," a made-for-TV movie for the ABC network that will recreate the lives of the two men who explored Africa and their famous meeting. What is in the movie, however, may not be as surprising as who is behind it: National Geographic Television.

"Stanley and Livingstone" will be the first movie co-produced by NGT, heretofore known only for documentaries on sharks, polar bears and sundry other nonfiction subjects.

NGT's first foray into the uncharted wilds of Hollywood does not figure to be

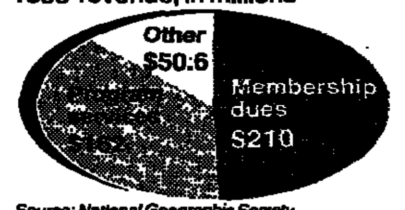
MEDIA MARKETS

its last. Currently in development at TriStar Pictures is another National Geographic project, "Endurance," a big-screen dramatic adaptation of Sir Ernest Shackleton's account of his shipwreck and survival in Antarctica.

Four other TV movies are in the works, plus a miniseries, all based on similar "real-life human adventures," said Tim Kelly, the president of the television division.

In addition, a National Geographic Internet site featuring articles from the magazine and an on-line "store" opened in June. At two shopping malls

National Geographic Society
1995 revenue, in millions



Source: National Geographic Society

in the New York area, National Geographic is testing kiosks that sell books, maps, videos and T-shirts.

Soon, tourists will be able to watch films produced by National Geographic and manipulate "hands-on" exhibits at sites near the Grand Canyon, the Everglades and other U.S. national parks. Some of the organization's executives are even talking about adding motion-simulator rides like those in amusement parks.

Until recently, such brazen entrepreneurship was terra incognita for the nonprofit National Geographic Society. Founded in 1888, the society has long projected an air of detachment from the marketplace. From its headquarters in Washington, the society produced television documentaries as well as its famous yellow-bordered magazine for about 9 million subscribers.

Its stated mission — "the increase and diffusion of geographic knowledge" — has been tended in dynastic fashion by members of the Grosvenor family, descendants of one of the early presidents of the society, Alexander Graham Bell.

The catalyst for change, perhaps not surprisingly, has come from outside the family. In 1993, the society hired a former newspaper publisher, Reg Murphy, as its second-ranking executive and heir-apparent to the president and chief executive, Gilbert Grosvenor, Mr. Bell's great-grandson. Since then, Mr. Murphy — who ascended to the top spot when Mr. Grosvenor retired in May — has revolutionized the business side of the organization, moving swiftly to capitalize on its upscale reputation.

Among other things, Mr. Murphy has turned National Geographic's TV unit into a for-profit subsidiary, freeing it to pursue lucrative production and syndication deals with the likes of Turner Broadcasting, Warner Bros., ABC and NBC. He hired John Fahey, who previously headed the Time-Life direct-marketing division in Alexandria, Virginia, to run the TV unit as part of National Geographic Ventures, a new for-profit subsidiary.

Mr. Fahey's group now oversees an

See MAGAZINE, Page 17

Retail Report Reignites U.S. Inflation Concern

Wall Street Gives Up a 100-Point Gain And Falls Despite Moderate Wage Data

By Mitchell Martin
International Herald Tribune

NEW YORK — Fear overcame greed on Wall Street late Tuesday as a private retail-sales report raised inflation worries that had been quieted just hours before by government data on wages.

Stocks ended the day slightly lower after a large early rally, while long-term bond yields were a little lower than on Monday.

The Dow Jones industrial average, which was up more than 100 points higher early in the day, ended down 4.61 points at 6,656.08. The Standard & Poor's 500-stock index was unchanged at 765.02.

The yield on the benchmark 30-year Treasury bond fell to 6.92 percent from 6.94 percent Monday. The bond was priced 8/32 higher at 94 23/32.

A benign report on U.S. employee compensation led to the early rises in stocks and bonds, but the advance was undone by the weekly retail-sales study from LJR Redbook Research. The report found a 7.3 percent increase in sales for last week, compared with the corresponding period a year earlier. But the number, while higher than expected, reflected changes in promotions at some stores and New York state's experimental abandonment of its sales tax for the week.

Earlier, the government's employment cost index, a measure of pay plus benefit costs, was reported to have risen 0.8 percent in the fourth quarter and 2.9 percent for all of 1996. That rise was roughly in line with analysts' estimates, but in recent days there had been fears in the financial markets that the indicator would show a rise of as much as 1 percent for the fourth quarter.

The compensation report was considered important because the Federal Reserve Board is known to be watching labor costs for signs of inflation, which, if they became apparent, would lead the central bank to raise short-term interest rates.

David Munro, chief U.S. economist of High Frequency Economics Ltd., a forecasting firm based in Valhalla, New York, said the wage data confirmed his view that the American economy was growing at "close to its speed limit," meaning an expansion that was not putting upward pressure on prices.

Although Mr. Munro said the current environment was not a "different world," he said the U.S. economy seemed to have escaped the "boom-and-bust cycle" that had been prevalent since World War II. He said a key reason was that employers were being selective about hiring and raises.

"Employers are continuing to hire and pay higher wages mostly for selected higher-skilled workers, and only when they will add to the bottom line," he said.

Last week, Alan Greenspan, the Federal Reserve Board chairman, told a congressional hearing that the central bank had so far not seen substantial inflation in American wage demands. Subsequently, Susan Phillips, another Fed governor, said the central bank was in a "heightened state of alert" about inflation, with energy prices and wages posing the biggest risks.

The government data Tuesday, however, helped alleviate market fears that the Fed would vote to raise interest rates when its policy-setting Federal Open Market Committee met next week. The fourth-quarter rise in the employment cost index was up from 0.6 percent in the third quarter, and the full-year figure was up from 2.7 percent in 1995.

A private-sector report on consumer confidence added to the optimistic outlook on Wall Street. The Conference Board said U.S. consumer confidence was sharply higher in January, as its index rose to 116.8 from 114.2 in December for its highest showing October 1979.

Despite the LJR Redbook Research report, Mr. Munro said consumers seemed cautious about their spending, although a return to 1980s-style "shop-till-you-drop" consumption could pose a threat to the steady, low-inflation growth the U.S. economy was experiencing.

Another possible problem, he said, would be deflation arising from bank

See STOCKS, Page 14

Will IRS Buy GM's Full-Size Loophole?

By Allan Sloan
Washington Post Service

WASHINGTON — General Motors Corp. spent a good part of January trying to whip up enthusiasm for its newest automotive offering: the 1997 Corvette. But this sleek $40.000 sports car is a mere jalopy compared with GM's new financial vehicle — the Loophole.

If all goes as planned, the Loophole will let GM and its stockholders avoid about $3 billion in taxes. It is an example, once again, of why some of America's best and brightest choose paper shuffling as their life's work.

This ingenious — and perfectly legal — piece of financial engineering is designed to let GM dispose of its defense business for $9.5 billion without the company or its stockholders having to pay a penny in capital-gains taxes.

GM will not disclose the price at which it carries its defense business for tax purposes, but it seems to be less than $1.5 billion. Thus, a normal, straightforward sale for $9.5 billion would produce a profit of more than $8 billion. That would generate a tax bill of more than $3 billion, at GM's combined federal, state and local tax rate of about 40 percent.

Enter the Loophole. Because of the way it works, GM argues that words such as "sale" and "profit" do not apply to this deal, in which GM's defense business is being conveyed to Raytheon Co. The Loophole is designed to let GM dispose of its defense business without selling it. No sale, no gain for tax purposes. No gain, no tax.

It is easy to see why GM loves the Loophole. If this snazzy vehicle performs, GM and its shareholders end up with $9.5 billion in their pockets. Without it, they may end up with $6.5 billion. The key step is one in which Raytheon,

WALL STREET WATCH

which is taking over GM's defense business, combines with the GM subsidiary that owns the business and will briefly become an independent company.

The combined company will be named Raytheon and will be run by Raytheon's managers. Technically, Hughes Aircraft Co., the GM subsidiary that owns the defense business, will borrow about $4.5 billion and give it to GM in return for a brief independence; Hughes will buy Raytheon by issuing Hughes Aircraft stock to Raytheon holders. The instant the deal is completed, Hughes Aircraft will change its name to Raytheon.

Holders of GM's common stock and its GMH stock, which is tied to GM's Hughes Electronics Corp. subsidiary, will own 30 percent of the "new" Raytheon's shares, while existing Raytheon holders will own the other 70 percent. Raytheon takes over the $4.5 billion debt. It doesn't sound like a takeover.

So, to fend off the tax man, GM has added a twist: the Raytheon shares owned by GM and GMH holders will have 80.1 percent of Raytheon's voting power when it comes to electing members of the board. That voting power lets GM claim that Hughes Aircraft is buying control of Raytheon rather than selling out to Raytheon.

It is not clear whether the Internal Revenue Service will give GM the favorable tax ruling that it is seeking. If the Loophole passes, any company could use it to dispose of businesses tax free. All the seller would need is a buyer that was willing to let the acquired business claim to be the acquirer.

■ Slump in GM Profit

General Motors said fourth-quarter profit fell 58 percent from a year earlier, in large part because of strikes that shut many of its North American assembly plants, The Associated Press reported from Detroit. The world's largest automaker said it earned $786 million, down from $1.9 billion, a year earlier.

Revenue slipped to $40.9 billion from $41.4 billion a year earlier.

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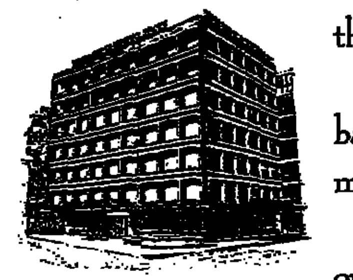

Headquarters of Republic National Bank of New York (Suisse) S.A. in Geneva.

In private banking, as in every business, there are short cuts.

For example, it may make sense to some banks to offer "standardized" service that meets the needs of one and all. More or less.

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CURRENCY & INTEREST RATES

Cross Rates

Jan. 28

	$	£	D.M.	F.F.	Lira	D.Fl.	B.F.	S.F.	Yen	C$	Peseta
Amsterdam	1.8535	2.9885	1.1235	0.3331	0.1148*	—	5.448*	1.2973	1.5321*	1.3863	1.3324*
Brussels	34.085	54.79	20.62	6.1136	2.1163*	18.358	—	23.885	0.2825	25.48	24.51*
Frankfurt	1.6545	2.661	—	0.2965	0.1026*	0.8902	4.8502*	1.1545	1.3664*	1.231	1.188*
London (a)	1.61	—	2.6583	8.9677	2,683.13	2.9672	54.4887	2.3085	195.852	2.1561	224.19
Madrid	139.193	223.85	84.242	27.976	7.122*	74.984	4.0852	97.297	115.35*	103.528	—
Milan	1,609.30	2,591.40	972.65	288.72	—	866.75	47.219	1,122.40	13.535	1,196.40	11.546
New York (b)	—	1.6170	1.6474	5.557	1,617.00	1.8505	33.97	1.438	121.025	1.34	139.20
Paris	3.573	8.9825	3.3739	—	0.3452*	3.0022	0.1636	3.8956	4.6184*	4.1451	4.0805*
Tokyo	119.85	193.80	72.60	21.54	0.748	64.64	3.5219	83.61	—	89.27	0.8625
Toronto	1.3488	2.1674	0.8125	0.2466	0.0828*	0.7234	0.394*	0.9366	1.1043*	—	0.962*
Zurich	1.433	2.306	0.8664	0.2549	0.0886*	0.7713	4.2021*	—	1.1839*	1.0709	1.020*
1 ECU	1.1795	0.7334	1.9400	6.5735	1,904.14	2.1895	40.1091	1.6874	142.332	1.5859	164.387
1 SDR	1.3917	0.864	2.3026	7.7561	2,246.73	2.5835	47.451	1.9946	166.729	1.8611	193.868

Closings in Amsterdam, London, Milan, New York, Paris and Zurich, fixings in other centers; New York and Toronto rates at 3p.m.
*a: To buy one pound; b: To buy one dollar; *Units of 100; N.Q.: not quoted; N.A.: not available.*

Other Dollar Values

Currency	Per $	Currency	Per $	Currency	Per $	Currency	Per $
Argent. peso	0.9988	Greek drac.	258.58	Mex. peso	7.831	S. Afr. rand	4.565
Australian $	1.2967	Hong Kong $	7.7315	N. Zealand $	1.4535	S. Kor. won	858.30
Austrian sch.	11.619	Hung. forint	169.11	Norw. krone	6.5589	Swed. krona	7.2834
Brazil real	1.0436	Indian rupee	35.87	Phil. peso	26.33	Taiwan $	27.45
Chinese yuan	8.3248	Indo. rupiah	2372.25	Polish zloty	3.00	Thai baht	25.81
Czech koruna	27.87	Irish £	0.6317	Port. escudo	165.31	Turkish lira	115095.
Danish krone	6.3015	Israeli shek.	3.3097	Russ ruble	5619.25	UAE dirham	3.6705
Egypt. pound	3.393	Kuw dinar	0.3012	Saudi riyal	3.75	Venez. bolív.	475.00
Fin. markka	4.8889	Malay. ring.	2.4928	Sing. $	1.4090		

Forward Rates

Currency	30-day	60-day	90-day	Currency	30-day	60-day	90-day
Pound Sterling	1.6070	1.6061	1.6061	Japanese yen	120.21	119.69	119.18
Canadian dollar	1.3414	1.3390	1.3360	Swiss franc	1.4262	1.4222	1.4172
Deutsche mark	1.6489	1.6460	1.6422				

Sources: ING Bank (Amsterdam); Indosuez Bank (Brussels); Banca Commerciale Italiana (Milan); Banque de France (Paris); Bank of Tokyo-Mitsubishi (Tokyo); Royal Bank of Canada (Toronto); IMF (SDR). Other data from the Associated Press, Bloomberg and Reuters.

Libid-Libor Rates

Jan. 28

	Dollar	D-Mark	Swiss Franc	Sterling	French Franc	Yen	ECU
1-month	5⅜ - 5½	3⅛ - 3¼	1⅝ - 1¾	6 - 6⅛	3⅛ - 3¼	⅜ - ½	4 - 4⅛
3-month	5⅜ - 5½	3⅛ - 3¼	1⅝ - 1¾	6⅛ - 6¼	3⅛ - 3¼	⅜ - ½	4 - 4⅛
6-month	5½ - 5⅝	3⅛ - 3¼	1½ - 1⅝	6¼ - 6⅜	3⅛ - 3¼	⅜ - ½	4 - 4⅛
1-year	5¾ - 5⅞	3¼ - 3⅜	1½ - 1⅝	6½ - 6⅝	3¼ - 3⅜	½ - ⅝	4 - 4⅛

Sources: Reuters, Lloyds Bank.
Rates applicable to interbank deposits of $1 million minimum (or equivalent).

Key Money Rates

United States	Close	Prev
Discount rate	5.00	5.00
Prime rate	8¼	8¼
Federal funds	5⅜	5⅜
90-day CDs dealers	5.45	5.43
180-day CP dealers	5.32	5.33
3 month Treasury bill	5.05	5.06
1-year Treasury bill	5.29	5.33
2-year Treasury bill	6.04	6.09
5-year Treasury note	6.39	6.43
7-year Treasury note	6.50	6.53
10-year Treasury note	6.64	6.67
30-year Treasury bond	6.92	6.94
Merrill Lynch 30-day RA	4.92	4.92
Japan		
Discount rate	0.50	0.50
Call money	0.43	0.41
1-month interbank	0.53	0.53
3-month interbank	0.56	0.56
6-month interbank	0.56	0.56
10-year Govt bond	2.43	2.44
Germany		
Lombard rate	4.50	4.50
Call money	3.12	3.15
1-month interbank	3.17	3.17
3-month interbank	3.15	3.15
6-month interbank	3.15	3.15
10-year Bond	5.78	5.79

Britain		
Bank base rate	6.00	6.00
Call money	5⅞	6.00
1-month interbank	6⅛	6⅛
3-month interbank	6¼	6¼
6-month interbank	6⅜	6⅜
10-year Gilt	7.45	7.49
France		
Intervention rate	3.15	3.15
Call money	3¼	3¼
1-month interbank	3⅜	3¼
3-month interbank	3⅜	3¼
6-month interbank	3⅜	3¼
10-year OAT	5.64	5.62

Sources: Reuters, Bloomberg, Merrill Lynch, Bank of Tokyo-Mitsubishi, Commerzbank, Credit Lyonnais.

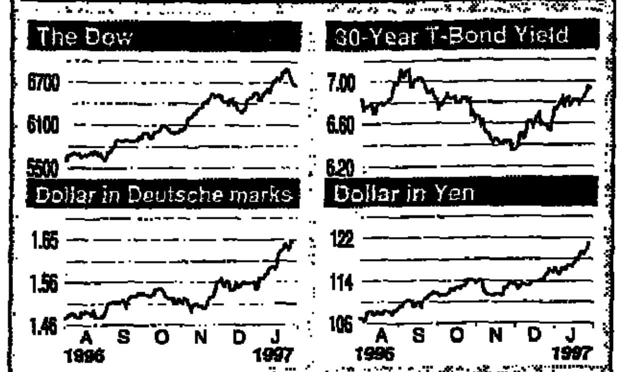
Gold

	A.M.	P.M.	Ch'ge
Zurich	356.90	353.00	Unch.
London	357.25	353.70	+0.10
New York	357.40	353.80	—3.50

U.S. dollars per ounce. London official fixings; Zurich and New York opening and closing prices; New York Comex (Feb.)
Source: Reuters.

THE AMERICAS

Investor's America



Exchange	Index	Tuesday Close	Prev. Close	% Change
NYSE	The Dow	6656.08	6660.69	-0.07
NYSE	S&P 500	765.02	765.02	Unch.
NYSE	S&P 100	748.68	749.19	-0.07
NYSE	Composite	402.86	402.78	+0.02
U.S.	Nasdaq Composite	1351.25	1352.81	-0.12
AMEX	Market Value	588.87	586.96	+0.33
Toronto	TSE Index	6046.73	6040.76	+0.10
São Paulo	Bovespa	78497.00	77590.00	+1.17
Mexico City	Bolsa	3676.78	3685.17	-0.23
Buenos Aires	Merval	668.38	658.51	+1.49
Santiago	IPSA General	5158.21	5128.99	+0.58
Caracas	Capital General	6263.58	6200.85	+1.01

Source: Bloomberg, Reuters International Herald Tribune

Disney May Quit Publishing

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

NEW YORK — Walt Disney Co. signaled Tuesday it might be willing to sell the newspapers and magazines it bought when it acquired Capital Cities/ABC Inc. — businesses that have been the target of speculation since the takeover.

While announcing stronger profit for the final three months of 1996, Disney said it intended to "begin exploring its strategic options" for the publishing business.

Along with broadcasting operations, Capital Cities/ABC owned the Kansas City Star, Fort Worth Star-Telegram and other newspapers. The $19 billion deal, agreed to in August 1995, also brought Disney such specialty publications as Women's Wear Daily.

Disney has been expected to look for a way to get out of the publications business since then.

Separately, Comcast Corp. and Disney's ABC Cable Networks said they had agreed to acquire Time Warner Inc.'s majority stake in E! Entertainment Television for $320 million.

After the purchase, the two companies will hold a 68.8 percent stake in the E! channel. Comcast, based in Philadelphia, already owned a 10.4 percent interest. Comcast executives said Disney would hold 49 percent of the company.

Disney also said Tuesday its profit rose in the most recent quarter, mostly on gains in its broadcasting operations, which consist mostly of ABC television and its TV and radio stations.

Net income for its first quarter, which ended Dec. 31, rose 51 percent, to $748 million, or $1.09 a share, while revenue soared 65 percent, to $6.28 billion.

A year earlier, the company earned $496 million, or 93 cents a share, on revenue of $3.84 billion. Even if profit from ABC had been included in the 1995 quarter, Disney's earnings still would have risen 33 percent. The profit exceeded expectations, and Disney's stock rose $1 a share to close at $72.625. *(AP, Bloomberg)*

Other Earnings Reports

• **Procter & Gamble Co.**'s earnings jumped 13 percent in its second quarter, to $944 million from $836 million a year earlier.

• **Merck & Co.** announced a 22 percent jump in fourth-quarter earnings, to $1.04 billion from $857.8 million a year earlier.

• **MCI Communications Corp.**'s fourth-quarter profit rose to $303 million from 284 million.

• **RJR-Nabisco Holdings Corp.**'s fourth-quarter profit gained 20 percent, to $248 million.

• **Kimberly-Clark Corp.** chalked up fourth-quarter earnings of $347.1 million, reversing a loss of $841.7 million a year earlier.

• **UAL Corp.**, the holding company for United Airlines, saw fourth-quarter earnings jump 67 percent, to $142 million, from $85 million a year earlier.

STOCKS: *Retail Report Hits Markets*

Continued from Page 13

ruptcies, although the financial and corporate sectors were not particularly vulnerable and consumer debt, while rising, has not become worrisome. The only other potential factor that could derail the current path of economic growth, he said, would be an "international flare-up" that resulted in a debt crisis or energy embargo, but he said that, too, was unlikely.

Against that backdrop, with "reasonably decent 5-to-10 percent rises" in corporate earnings, Mr. Munro said stock prices could be expected to rise, even though they were highly valued by many traditional indicators. He added, however, that of the various valuation gauges, only the current meager dividend yields were entirely beyond previous levels.

There were some bright spots in the market, such as IBM, which surprised investors by announcing a 2-for-1 stock split. The company's stock had fallen 13 percent since it announced disappointing earnings last week, but on Tuesday, the shares rose 5⅜ to 150¾.

The rise in IBM, which has resumed its position as a market bellwether after an absence of about a decade, was cited by analysts as encouraging investors.

Another erstwhile market leader, ITT Corp., was the most active New York Stock Exchange issue.

It closed 1⅜ lower at 56¾. On Monday, the rival hotelier Hilton Hotels announced a $55-a-share takeover bid. News reports on Tuesday and the fact that the stock was trading above the offer price, indicated that a higher bid was expected. But Hilton rose, gaining 2⅜ to 27⅜.

Advancing issues outpaced decliners by a 7 to 5 ratio on the New York Stock Exchange.

In Nasdaq trading, 3Com was down 3½ at 61¼. Bloomberg News said the company told analysts that it had weak sales in the second half of December, although they recovered this month.

Other networking issues were higher after recent weakness. Cascade Communications gave a profit warning on Friday, which depressed the sector, but on Tuesday, it was up ¼ at 38¼ in active trading, while Cisco gained ½ to 68⅞.

Good corporate profits have been underpinning stock prices. On Tuesday, Procter & Gamble joined the list, announcing income of $944 million, or $1.35 a share, for its second quarter, up from $836 million, or $1.18 a year earlier. Analysts had been expecting slightly lower per share results. P&G's stock was up 2¾ to 110½.

U.S. STOCKS

American Home Products also advanced after announcing fourth-quarter earnings at the high end of analysts' expectations. The stock was up ½ at 60¼.

Gillette rose ¼ to 81⅜. Prudential Securities recommended the stock.

Computer chipmakers rose, with Intel up ⅞ at 151, Motorola gaining 2¼ to 66⅞ and VLSI up ¾ at 16.

General Motors fell 1⅜ at 60½ after the automaker's fourth-quarter profit fell sharply because of strikes that shut many of its North American assembly plants, but the results were slightly above expectations.

Minnesota Mining & Manufacturing rose 1½ to 83½ on strong earnings.

Procter & Gamble rose 2¾ to 110½ after the consumer-product giant's profits rose 13 percent in the October-December quarter, beating expectations despite a scant increase in sales.

Very briefly:

Inquiry Sought on BA-American

WASHINGTON (Bloomberg) — Five U.S. airlines, including UAL Corp.'s United Airlines and Delta Air Lines Inc., are asking the Transportation Department for an inquiry into a proposed marketing alliance between AMR Corp.'s American Airlines and British Airways PLC.

The airlines' letter, which was also signed by Trans World Airlines Inc., Tower Air Inc. and Laker Airways Inc., said the United States should investigate the alliance before continuing aviation talks with Britain, which are scheduled to resume next week.

• **The Securities and Exchange Commission** adopted rules requiring thousands of banks, thrift institutions and companies to disclose potential losses from derivative securities. The rules, which will be phased in starting this summer, follow huge derivatives losses in recent years by companies such as Procter & Gamble Co. and Gibson Greetings Inc.

• **General Motors Corp.** and union leaders resolved a strike that began Sunday at a Moraine, Ohio, plant that makes sport-utility vehicles. About 4,300 union members walked off the job after rejecting a tentative local contract with the automaker last week.

• **The National Association of Securities Dealers** named Frank Zarb, a former head of Smith Barney Inc. who now leads Alexander & Alexander Inc., an insurance-brokerage concern, as its president and chief executive.

• **Netscape Communications Corp.**'s share of the Internet browser software market has fallen to 70 percent from 83 percent in August because of increased competition from a rival **Microsoft Corp.** product, a study by Zona Research Inc. said. The study predicted that Netscape's Navigator would continue to lose market share to Microsoft's Explorer.

• **Conrail Inc.**'s chief executive, David LeVan, said shareholders should "feel free" to sell to **Norfolk Southern Corp.**, for quick cash but suggested that a rival bid by **CSX Corp.** was the best deal for Conrail. *Bloomberg, AP, NYT, Bridge News*

Takeover Fever Fails to Sustain ITT

Bloomberg News

NEW YORK — ITT Corp.'s shares eased Tuesday despite expectations that Hilton Hotels Corp. would increase its hostile offer valued at $10.5 billion for ITT, which is the parent of Sheraton hotels and Caesars World casinos.

Hilton Hotels offered $55 a share for ITT. If accepted, the offer would make Hilton the world's largest hotel and casino company. Hilton said it would consider raising its bid after it had a closer look at ITT's books.

ITT shares rose as high as $59.25, but they closed at $56.75, down $1.75. The offer represents a 28 percent premium to the Monday closing price of $47.875, but in after-hours trading ITT shares had soared $14.75, to $58.50. Hilton closed up $2.375, at $27.625.

"It isn't going to happen anywhere near the $55 price," said Marvin Roffman, an analyst at Roffman Miller. He said ITT would fight to remain independent.

Hilton plans to start a cash tender offer of $55 a share for half of the ITT shares outstanding, to be followed by an offer of $55 a share in Hilton common stock.

Separately, ITT and its directors are being sued over their cool response to the Hilton offer. Three ITT shareholders sued in New York Supreme Court over claims that ITT directors repeatedly rebuffed Hilton's offers.

Dollar Rises on Reports the U.S. Economy Stays Strong

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

NEW YORK — The dollar rose Tuesday against the yen, helped by reports showing the U.S. economy remained strong with little inflation.

Traders snapped up dollars after a report on fourth-quarter labor costs quelled inflation concerns and spurred rallies in U.S. bonds and stocks. Those gains evaporated late in the day after a report on retail sales sparked renewed inflation concerns, pulling the dollar down from its highs.

The dollar finished at 121.025 yen, up from 119.575 yen Monday, and at 1.6474 Deutsche marks, up slightly from 1.6473 DM.

But the dollar dropped to 1.4280 Swiss francs from 1.4303 francs and to 5.5570 French francs from 5.5573 francs. The pound was at $1.6170, down from $1.6222.

"The employment news was very dollar-friendly," said Fernando Medina, a trader at Banco Atlantico. "Bonds and stocks have responded very favorably now that the pressure's off the Fed to raise rates."

Foreign investors need to purchase dollars to buy U.S. securities such as Treasury bonds. Another report showing that consumer confidence jumped to a seven-year high also buoyed the dollar.

The dollar has been on a tear for a month as investors have concluded that the U.S. economy and financial markets will keep outperforming those of Germany and Japan, luring more investors to the United States.

FOREIGN EXCHANGE

"It's still a comparative-economy thing that is pushing the dollar," said Tom Hoge, corporate trader and vice president at the Bank of New York, referring to differences in economic fundamentals that favor America over Germany and Japan.

In addition, remarks by senior policymakers in some of the world's leading industrial nations have persuaded traders and investors that they are not about to try to stem the U.S. currency's rise.

Adding support to the status quo, Germany's Economics Ministry said the value of the mark against the dollar had "normalized" and that it expected no "significant" change to monetary policy this year. It also said interest rates would stay near their current historic lows. That followed remarks from German officials and the Swiss finance minister Monday that led traders to conclude the countries were comfortable with the dollar's strength.

"The comments have been real straightforward," Mr. Medina said. "They're saying, 'Hey, go right ahead,'" regarding the rising dollar.

The dollar's early gains against the mark were reduced as traders bought marks for yen. To carry out that trade, they sometimes sell marks for dollars, then sell those dollars for yen. *(Bloomberg, Market News)*

AMEX

Tuesday's 4 p.m. Close

The top 300 most-active shares, up to the closing on Wall Street.

The Associated Press

Stock	Sales	High	Low	Latest	Chge
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

U. S. STOCK MARKET DIARY

Indexes

Dow Jones

	Open	High	Low	Last	Chg.
Indus	6752.67	6761.13	6622.98	6656.08	—4.61
Trans	2326.56	2333.25	2280.67	2302.21	—11.41
Util	234.79	237.63	234.35	234.70	—1.11
Comp	2105.82	2108.63	2072.85	2079.21	—4.81

Standard & Poors

	High	Low	Close	Chg.
Industrials	911.19	894.02	898.17	+0.01
Transp.	561.90	553.05	554.33	—2.29
Utilities	202.40	199.74	199.98	—0.61
Finance	86.64	84.89	85.14	+0.09
SP 500	776.32	761.75	765.02	Unch.
SP 100	760.83	745.28	748.68	—0.50

NYSE

	High	Low	Last	Chg.
Composite	407.88	401.53	402.86	+0.08
Industrials	513.87	505.15	507.09	—0.21
Transp.	366.22	361.48	362.09	—1.04
Utility	266.14	262.84	263.46	+0.37
Finance	369.46	363.99	364.76	+0.77

Nasdaq

	High	Low	Last	Chg.
Composite	1378.20	1351.25	1351.25	—1.56
Industrials	1157.63	1146.69	1146.69	+0.73
Banks	1328.28	1325.15	1326.08	+4.59
Insurance	1449.85	1441.49	1441.49	—2.27
Finance	1666.79	1662.25	1664.95	+9.25
Transp.	892.25	886.22	886.22	+1.08

AMEX

	High	Low	Last	Chg.
	589.83	584.11	588.87	+1.91

Dow Jones Bond

	Close	Chg.
20 Bonds	103.38	+0.12
10 Utilities	100.63	+0.20
10 Industrials	106.14	+0.06

Most Actives

NYSE

	Vol.	High	Low	Last	Chg.
ITT Corp	119551	59¼	56⅛	56¾	—1⅜
PepsiCo s	83874	35	34	34⅞	+⅛
IBM	80247	154¼	148¼	150¾	+5
MicrnT	62728	34⅞	31¾	32⅝	—⅜
Hilton s	59065	30	26¾	27⅜	+2⅜
AT&T s	43867	39⅝	38⅛	38⅝	—⅛
CocaCl s	43524	57¾	55	55	—1
WalMart	43426	23¼	22⅞	23	+⅛
FannMae	42389	38⅞	38	38⅜	+1⅛
Unicom	38861	27⅛	26⅛	26⅛	—⅜
GenElec	37900	104¼	100¾	100⅝	+⅛
PECO	37494	23⅝	22⅛	22⅛	—1⅛
WstgEl	37367	19⅛	18⅝	18⅝	—⅛
GnMotr	33978	62⅝	59¾	60½	—1⅜
Motorola	30238	67⅝	65⅝	66⅞	+2¼

Nasdaq

	Vol.	High	Low	Last	Chg.
3Com	193237	66⅞	60⅝	61¼	—3½
Oracle s	148889	39⅞	37⅛	37⅞	—⅛
Cisco s	87066	71⅛	68	68⅞	+½
CascCm s	82713	39⅞	37⅝	38¼	+¼
Microsft s	76835	98¼	94¾	95⅜	—⅜
Intel	71101	153⅜	149⅛	151	+⅞
Novell	64576	11⅛	10¾	11	
WorldCm s	57968	26⅛	25⅛	25⅜	—⅜
SunMic s	54555	33	31⅛	32¼	+1
US Robt s	51719	71	67⅞	68⅞	+1
ReadRt	46240	32	29	29⅞	+1½
DellCpt s	44101	68⅞	64¾	65½	—½
DSC	42239	25⅛	23⅞	23⅞	—½
ForeSys s	39703	29⅛	27	27⅞	+⅜
PrmPks n	39107	32⅝	29⅞	31⅜	+1⅜

AMEX

	Vol.	High	Low	Last	Chg.
SPDR	42989	77[illegible]	76	76[illegible]	+[illegible]
Han wtB	8759	[illegible]		[illegible]	—
Edisto	8480	3⅝	3⅜	3⅝	
Harken	7950	3⅞	3⅝	3¾	+⅛
EchoBay	7777	6⅝	6⅜	6⅝	—⅛
ViacB	7180	34⅝	34⅛	34½	+⅛
Amdahl	6336	8⅛	7⅞	8⅛	
IvaxCp	5031	11⅝	11⅛	11⅝	+⅜
Hearx n	4805	2⅝	2⅜	2⅝	
Nabors	4803	19⅛	18⅞	18⅞	—⅛

Trading Activity

NYSE

	Close	Prev.
Advanced	1427	845
Declined	1055	1667
Unchanged	840	789
Total issues	3322	3301
New Highs	94	82
New Lows	19	20

Nasdaq

	Close	Prev.
Advanced	2180	1728
Declined	1872	2290
Unchanged	1695	1707
Total Issues	5738	5725
New Highs	175	125
New Lows	69	68

AMEX

	Close	Prev.
Advanced	308	208
Declined	230	292
Unchanged	198	187
Total issues	736	717
New Highs	15	12
New Lows	6	8

Market Sales

	Today Close	Prev. cons.
NYSE	526.42	535.57
Amex	21.63	23.98
Nasdaq	611.06	537.78

In millions.

Dividends

Company	Per	Amt	Rec	Pay
IRREGULAR				
Host Funding	-	.24	2-4	2-18
LL&E Royalty	-	.0582	2-5	2-14
Stlwest GA Fncl	-	.10	1-21	1-31
STOCK				
Chris-Craft	x	3%	3-20	4-2
North CountyBncp	-	5%	1-31	2-28
STOCK SPLIT				
Brightpoint Inc 5 for 4 split.				
IBM 2 for 1 split.				
US Trust 2 for 1 split.				
REVERSE STOCK SPLIT				
Viro Group 1 for 8 reverse split.				
INCREASED				
Con Edison	Q	.525	2-19	3-15
Disney, Walt	Q	.1325	4-11	5-16
Metro Richelieu g	Q	.08	2-10	3-3
Norfolk Sthrn	Q	.60	2-7	3-10
St Mary Land	Q	.05	2-14	2-24
OMITTED				
Stone Container				
REGULAR				
Am Brands	Q	.50	2-12	3-1
Analogic Corp	Q	.05	2-7	2-21
Becton Dickinson	Q	.13	3-07	3-28
CMS Energy	Q	.27	2-4	2-21
CMS Energy G	Q	.295	2-4	2-21
Downingwtr Svcs	Q	.31	2-28	3-14
East Texas Fin	Q	.05	2-12	2-26
Fst CitizenBacshA	Q	.25	3-17	4-7
Fst Svgs Bk SLA	Q	.10	2-14	2-28
Foster Wheeler	Q	.205	2-14	3-14
Franklin Bk NA	Q	.06	2-10	2-24
Hanna, MA	Q	.105	2-18	3-12
Hibernia Corp	Q	.08	2-7	2-20
Howell Corp	Q	.04	2-12	2-26
Hunt, JB	Q	.05	2-3	2-17
IBM	Q	.35	2-10	3-10
Johnson Inns	Q	.22	2-4	2-20
Kennametal Inc	Q	.17	2-10	2-25
Louisiana Pacific	Q	.14	2-13	2-28
Lyondell Petrol	Q	.225	2-25	3-15
Savannah Bncp	Q	.03	2-7	2-24
Schering-Plough	Q	.33	2-7	2-28
Security Bk Hld	S	.11	1-31	2-14
Suncor Inc g	Q	.34	3-14	3-25
TSI Inc	Q	.025	2-6	2-20
Tambrands Inc	Q	.46	3-3	3-17

a-annual; b-approximate amount per share/ADR; g-payable in Canadian funds; m-monthly; q-quarterly; s-semi-annual

Stock Tables Explained

Sales figures are unofficial. Yearly highs and lows reflect the previous 52 weeks plus the current week, but not the latest trading day. Where a split or stock dividend amounting to 25 percent or more has been paid, the years high-low range and dividend are shown for the new stocks only. Unless otherwise noted, rates of dividends are annual disbursements based on the latest declaration.
a - dividend also extra (s). b - annual rate of dividend plus stock dividend. c - liquidating dividend. cc - PE exceeds 99. cld - called. d - new yearly low. dd - loss in the last 12 months. e - dividend declared or paid in preceding 12 months. f - annual rate, increased on last declaration. g - dividend in Canadian funds, subject to 15% non-residence tax. i - dividend declared after split-up or stock dividend. j - dividend paid this year, omitted, deferred, or no action taken at latest dividend meeting. k - dividend declared or paid this year, an accumulative issue with dividends in arrears. m - annual rate, reduced on last declaration. n - new issue in the past 52 weeks. The high-low range begins with the start of trading. nd - next day delivery. p - initial dividend, annual rate unknown. P/E - price-earnings ratio. q - closed-end mutual fund. r - dividend declared or paid in preceding 12 months plus stock dividend. s - stock split. Dividend begins with date of split. sls - sales. t - dividend paid in stock in preceding 12 months, estimated cash value on ex-dividend or ex-distribution date. u - new yearly high. v - trading halted. vi - in bankruptcy or receivership or being reorganized under the Bankruptcy Act, or securities assumed by such companies. wd - when distributed. wi - when issued/ ww - with warrants. x - ex-dividend or ex-rights. xdis - ex-distribution. xw - without warrants. y- ex-dividend and sales in full. yld - yield. z - sales in full.

INTERNATIONAL FUTURES

Jan. 28, 1997

	High	Low	Close	Chge	Opint
Grains					
CORN (CBOT) 5,000 bu minimum- cents per bushel					
Mar 97	277¼	274¼	274¾	— ¼	122,365
May 97	274¾	271¾	272¼	— ½	67,614
Jul 97	273¼	270¼	270½	— ½	63,628
Sep 97	268	266¼	266½		9,069
Dec 97	268¾	267½	268¼	+ ¾	43,792
Est. sales N.A. Mon's. sales 39,576					
Mon's open int 308,890 off 2947					
SOYBEAN MEAL (CBOT) 100 tons- dollars per ton					
Mar 97	239.00	236.60	236.80	—1.30	38,747
May 97	235.60	233.00	233.00	—1.70	27,310
Jul 97	234.70	232.00	232.10	—1.70	19,243
Aug 97	231.30	229.70	229.70	—1.10	3,349
Sep 97	225.80	224.30	224.20	—0.70	2,476
Oct 97	214.50	213.50	213.50		1,044
Est. sales N.A. Mon's. sales					
Mon's open int					
SOYBEAN OIL (CBOT) 60,000 lbs- cents per lb					
Mar 97	24.48	24.15	24.15	—0.21	46,918
May 97	24.87	24.55	24.55	—0.19	14,628
Jul 97	25.20	24.89	24.89	—0.18	14,975
Aug 97	25.32	25.02	25.02	—0.16	2,849
Sep 97	25.40	25.22	25.22	—0.06	2,442
Oct 97	25.50	25.43	25.50	+0.08	723
Est. sales N.A. Mon's. sales					
Mon's open int					
SOYBEANS (CBOT) 5,000 bu minimum- cents per bushel					
Mar 97	752½	744	746½	—5¼	76,784
May 97	753	745½	746½	—4	37,361
Jul 97	754½	746	746½	—4¼	32,892
Aug 97	749½	742	743	—4¼	4,954
Sep 97	719	712	712	—4½	1,416
Est. sales N.A. Mon's. sales					
Mon's open int					
WHEAT (CBOT) 5,000 bu minimum- cents per bushel					
Mar 97	374½	371¼	373½	+2	27,080
May 97	359½	356½	359	+3	10,261
Jul 97	349½	343¼	348	+3¾	24,178
Sep 97	351½	348	350	+3	1,528
Est. sales N.A. Mon's. sales 9,411					
Mon's open int 64,580 up 161					
Livestock					
CATTLE (CMER) 40,000 lbs.- cents per lb.					
Feb 97	64.97	64.50	64.57	—0.40	20,935
Apr 97	67.10	66.55	66.57	—0.27	38,237
Jun 97	64.60	64.22	64.37	+0.05	13,466
Aug 97	64.40	63.95	64.15	+0.05	15,443
Oct 97	67.50	66.65	67.32	+0.45	8,293
Dec 97	70.05	69.25	69.85	+0.50	3,439
Est. sales N.A. Mon's. sales 27,541					
Mon's open int 101,671 up 911					
FEEDER CATTLE (CMER) 50,000 lbs.- cents per lb.					
Jan 97	69.42	69.25	69.30	—0.17	1,228
Mar 97	69.70	68.90	69.40	+0.17	7,221
Apr 97	69.97	69.48	69.65	+0.10	2,892
May 97	70.65	70.00	70.20	+0.07	4,803
Aug 97	75.00	73.65	74.57	+0.82	3,581
Sep 97	75.40	74.20	75.15	+0.97	838
Est. sales N.A. Mon's. sales 3,788					
Mon's open int 21,803 up 322					
HOGS-Lean (CMER) 40,000 lbs.- cents per lb.					
Feb 97	77.30	76.25	76.27	—0.90	8,981
Apr 97	77.10	76.27	76.55	—0.65	11,766
Jun 97	81.35	80.35	80.52	—0.67	7,129
Jul 97	79.85	78.30	78.55	—0.45	1,390
Aug 97	75.00	74.40	74.72	—0.22	1,465
Oct 97	68.10	67.60	67.77	—0.15	1,357
Est. sales N.A. Mon's. sales 8,391					
Mon's open int 33,497 off 31					
PORK BELLIES (CMER) 40,000 lbs.- cents per lb.					
Feb 97	80.40	78.90	80.17	—0.37	3,558
Mar 97	81.20	79.00	80.07	—0.42	1,324
May 97	81.65	80.02	80.55	—0.22	2,141
Jul 97	80.47	79.40	79.92	—0.65	640
Aug 97	77.30	76.35	76.65	—0.15	433
Est. sales N.A. Mon's. sales 3,712					
Mon's open int 8,188 up 75					
Food					
COCOA (NCSE) 10 metric tons- $ per ton					
Mar 97	1318	1299	1316	—8	23,228
May 97	1351	1332	1348	—9	22,983
Jul 97	1378	1357	1373	—10	13,393
Sep 97	1399	1384	1398	—10	9,851
Dec 97	1433	1407	1422	—9	3,880
Est. sales N.A. Mon's. sales 8,484					
Mon's open int 87,839 off 1349					
COFFEE C (NCSE) 37,500 lbs.- cents per lb.					
Mar 97	140.20	136.80	139.50	+2.90	23,721
May 97	135.25	132.25	134.60	+2.85	9,876
Jul 97	131.50	129.00	131.20	+3.05	4,472
Sep 97	127.00	124.25	126.50	+3.25	2,737
Est. sales N.A. Mon's. sales 12,188					
Mon's open int 43,328 up 91					
SUGAR-WORLD 11 (NCSE) 112,000 lbs.- cents per lb.					
Mar 97	10.46	10.39	10.41	—0.03	82,656
May 97	10.45	10.41	10.43	—0.01	37,484
Jul 97	10.44	10.40	10.41	—0.02	27,298
Oct 97	10.45	10.42	10.44	—0.07	17,299
Est. sales N.A. Mon's. sales 21,540					
Mon's open int 157,933 off 2832					

	High	Low	Close	Chge	Opint
ORANGE JUICE (NCTN) 15,000 lbs.- cents per lb.					
Mar 97	99.00	91.00	93.75	+0.25	18,780
May 97	96.40	94.00	95.50	+4.10	6,928
Jul 97	99.30	96.50	98.05	+4.35	2,263
Sep 97	102.10	100.10	102.10	+5.00	1,834
Est. sales N.A. Mon's. sales 8,446					
Mon's open int 30,485 off 734					
Metals					
GOLD (NCMX) 100 troy oz.- dollars per troy oz.					
Jan 97			357.10		5
Feb 97	358.20	353.20	353.60	—3.70	48,075
Mar 97			358.20		68
Apr 97	360.10	354.90	355.40	—3.80	56,817
Jun 97	361.90	357.20	357.70	—3.80	22,050
Aug 97	364.50	362.70	363.20	—0.70	8,327
Oct 97	363.80	363.60	363.60	—2.90	3,729
Dec 97	367.00	364.20	364.20	—4.90	16,401
Est. sales N.A. Mon's. sales 65,550					
Mon's open int 191,255 off 4129					
HI GRADE COPPER (NCMX) 25,000 lbs.- cents per lb.					
Jan 97	111.60	109.50	111.10	—0.10	2,465
Feb 97	107.65	106.90	107.65	+0.05	3,009
Mar 97	106.30	105.10	106.15	+0.25	24,916
Apr 97	104.25	103.80	104.25	+0.75	1,222
May 97	102.90	101.90	102.90	+0.50	6,213
Jun 97			102.25	+0.75	764
Jul 97	101.30	100.60	101.30	+0.65	4,090
Aug 97			100.55	+0.70	597
Sep 97			99.90	+0.70	2,640
Est. sales N.A. Mon's. sales 6,025					
Mon's open int 54,679 up 53					
SILVER (NCMX) 5,000 troy oz.- cents per troy oz.					
Jan 97			502.70		72
Feb 97			502.80		7
Mar 97	506.00	494.50	495.50	—9.20	58,705
May 97	510.00	499.50	501.00	—8.50	18,446
Jul 97	513.50	504.00	504.50	—9.40	8,851
Sep 97	513.50	508.00	509.00	—10.00	3,843
Dec 97	526.00	518.00	518.50	—7.90	4,635
Jan 98			529.30		9
Est. sales N.A. Mon's. sales 89,236					
Mon's open int 331,263 up 225991					
PLATINUM (NMER) 50 troy oz.- dollars per troy oz.					
Jan 97	359.00	357.00	357.00	—2.60	10
Apr 97	364.40	360.30	360.50	—2.80	19,702
Jul 97	364.90	364.00	364.00	—2.60	3,218
Oct 97	368.50	366.00	366.00	—2.80	2,247
Jan 98			371.20		1,576
Est. sales N.A. Mon's. sales 1,997					
Mon's open int 26,254 up 212					

LONDON METALS (LME) Dollars per metric ton

	Close		Previous	
Aluminum (High Grade)				
Spot	1604.00	1605.00	1618½	1619½
Forward	1629.00	1630.00	1639.00	1639½
Copper Cathodes (High Grade)				
Spot	2573.00	2578.00	2558.00	2563.00
Forward	2241.00	2242.00	2253.00	2254.00
Lead				
Spot	665½	667½	687½	688½
Forward	676.00	678.00	696.00	697.00
Nickel				
Spot	7155.00	7165.00	7180.00	7190.00
Forward	7260.00	7265.00	7280.00	7290.00
Tin				
Spot	5815.00	5820.00	5930.00	5940.00
Forward	5875.00	5876.00	5980.00	5985.00
Zinc (Special High Grade)				
Spot	1108.00	1109.00	1117½	1118½
Forward	1129½	1130.00	1139.00	1140.00

	High	Low	Close	Chge	Opint
Financial					
US T. BILLS (CMER) $1 million- pts of 100 pct.					
Mar 97	94.94	94.90	94.92	+0.02	4,611
Jun 97	94.80	94.73	94.77	+0.05	3,222
Sep 97			94.55	+0.05	716
Est. sales N.A. Mon's. sales 1,578					
Mon's open int 9,703 up 561					
5 YR. TREASURY (CBOT) $100,000 prin- pts & 64ths of 100 pct					
Mar 97	106-17	105-49	105-59	+ 11	180,196
Jun 97	105-56	105-42	105-42	+ 12	10,025
Sep 97			105-26	+ 12	
Est. sales 61,600 Mon's. sales 36,244					
Mon's open int 190,221 up 3903					
10 YR. TREASURY (CBOT) $100,000 prin- pts & 32nds of 100 pct					
Mar 97	109-16	107-22	107-29	+ 06	323,713
Jun 97	107-25	107-07	107-11	+ 07	21,427
Sep 97			106-27	+ 07	683
Est. sales 105,000 Mon's. sales 49,251					
Mon's open int 345,805 up 1486					
US TREASURY BONDS (CBOT) (8 pct-$100,000-pts & 32nds of 100 pct)					
Mar 97	111-02	109-21	110-02	+ 09	462,481
Jun 97	110-17	109-08	109-18	+ 09	30,092
Sep 97	109-31	109-04	109-04	+ 09	5,881
Dec 97			108-22	+ 09	4,449
Est. sales 415,000 Mon's. sales 342,983					
Mon's open int 509,481 off 380					
LONG GILT (LIFFE) £50,000 - pts & 32nds of 100 pct					
Mar97	110-26	109-29	110-21	+ 0-11	165,684
Jun97	N.T.	N.T.	110-04	+ 0-11	
Est. sales: 97,483. Prev. sales: 44,702					
Prev. open int.: 166,137 up 2,142					
GERMAN GOVERNMENT BUND (LIFFE) DM250,000 - pts of 100 pct					
Mar97	101.47	100.74	101.30	+ 0.34	222,454
Jun97	100.50	99.90	100.49	+0.34	7,264
Est. sales: 273,011. Prev. sales: 99,266					
Prev. open int.: 229,718 off 1,466					
10-YEAR FRENCH GOV. BONDS (MATIF) FF500,000 - pts of 100 pct					
Mar 97	130.70	129.74	130.52	+0.36	123,736
Jun 97	129.22	128.52	129.18	+0.40	14,447
Sep 97	127.34	126.84	127.50	+0.40	777
Dec. 97	N.T.	N.T.	96.86	+0.40	0
Est. volume: 198,912. Open int.: 138,960 up 2,263.					
ITALIAN GOVERNMENT BOND (LIFFE) ITL 200 million - pts of 100 pct					
Mar97	131.98	131.25	131.87	+ 0.30	110,946
Jun97	131.40	130.75	131.31	+ 0.27	9,197
Sep97	131.30	131.20	131.37	+ 0.36	200
Est. sales: 61,983. Prev. sales: 29,757					
Prev. open int.: 120,343 up 815					
EURODOLLARS (CMER) $1 million-pts of 100 pct.					
Mar 00	93.24	93.12	93.16	+0.05	39,274
Jun 00	93.18	93.08	93.10	+0.05	35,006
Sep 00	93.13	93.03	93.05	+0.05	30,643
Dec 00	93.05	92.95	92.97	+0.05	24,734
Mar 01	93.03	92.94	92.97	+0.05	25,700
Jun 01	92.98	92.92	92.92	+0.05	20,489
Sep 01	92.95	92.88	92.88	+0.05	12,456
Dec 01	92.86	92.80	92.80	+0.05	9,605
Est. sales N.A. Mon's. sales 261,352					
Mon's open int 2,232,752 up 3800					
BRITISH POUND (CMER) 62,500 pounds, $ per pound					
Mar 97	1.6202	1.6050	1.6164		33,522
Jun 97	1.6164	1.6020	1.6126		2,364
Sep 97	1.6180	1.6100	1.6100		1,808
Dec 97			1.6064		7
Est. sales N.A. Mon's. sales 7,236					
Mon's open int 36,931 up 408					
CANADIAN DOLLAR (CMER) 100,000 dollars, $ per Cdn. dlr					
Mar 97	.7498	.7457	.7483		41,414
Jun 97	.7545	.7510	.7528		8,254
Sep 97	.7575	.7568	.7568		2,506
Dec 97	.7610	.7586	.7606		446
Est. sales N.A. Mon's. sales 5,698					
Mon's open int 53,674 off 344					
GERMAN MARK (CMER) 125,000 marks, $ per mark					
Mar 97	.6098	.6058	.6087		85,013
Jun 97	.6138	.6097	.6125		5,896
Sep 97			.6165		2,236
Dec 97			.6205		18
Est. sales N.A. Mon's. sales 28,769					
Mon's open int 92,363 up 4438					
JAPANESE YEN (CMER) 12.5 million yen, $ per 100 yen					
Mar 97	.8429	.8266	.8307		71,126
Jun 97	.8505	.8380	.8416		2,871
Sep 97			.8528		476
Est. sales N.A. Mon's. sales 10,900					
Mon's open int 74,584					
SWISS FRANC (CMER) 125,000 francs, $ per franc					
Mar 97	.7069	.6999	.7029		49,224
Jun 97	.7108	.7065	.7095		2,321
Sep 97	.7176	.7130	.7164		1,896
Est. sales N.A. Mon's. sales 15,549					
Mon's open int 53,463 up 330					
3-MONTH STERLING (LIFFE) £500,000 - pts of 100 pct					
Mar97	93.46	93.41	93.45	+ 0.02	99,651
Jun97	93.41	93.38	93.40	+ 0.04	100,909
Sep97	93.19	93.09	93.18	+ 0.05	65,909
Dec97	93.02	92.91	92.99	+ 0.08	49,887
Mar98	92.86	92.77	92.85	+ 0.06	37,085
Jun98	92.76	92.67	92.75	+ 0.05	29,215
Sep98	92.66	92.60	92.67	+ 0.04	20,812
Dec98	92.58	92.51	92.59	+ 0.04	17,157
Mar99	92.52	92.45	92.50	+ 0.04	8,752
Jun99	92.45	92.37	92.44	+ 0.05	6,953
Sep99	92.41	92.32	92.39	+ 0.03	6,705
Dec99	92.28	92.28	92.36	+ 0.03	2,637
Est. sales: 42,449. Prev. sales: 44,465					
Prev. open int.: 445,592 up 422					
3-MONTH EUROMARK (LIFFE) DM1 million - pts of 100 pct					
Feb97	96.87	96.86	96.87	Unch.	3,794
Mar97	96.88	96.86	96.88	Unch.	211,486
Apr97	96.86	96.86	96.88	+ 0.01	2,514
Jun97	96.86	96.81	96.85	+ 0.01	182,525
Sep97	96.79	96.70	96.77	+ 0.03	151,899
Dec97	96.62	96.51	96.60	+ 0.04	155,274
Mar98	96.44	96.32	96.42	+ 0.04	110,158
Jun98	96.23	96.10	96.21	+ 0.05	91,283
Sep98	95.96	95.84	95.95	+ 0.05	74,844
Dec98	95.66	95.57	95.66	+ 0.05	65,828
Mar99	95.40	95.31	95.40	+ 0.05	42,056
Jun99	95.14	95.05	95.14	+ 0.05	23,178
Sep99	94.82	94.70	94.88	+ 0.05	18,990
Dec99	94.61	94.51	94.62	+ 0.05	10,440
Mar00	94.39	94.26	94.36	+ 0.04	684
Jun00	94.03	94.03	94.10	+ 0.03	166
Sep00	N.T.	N.T.	93.86	+ 0.02	50
Dec00	N.T.	N.T.	93.64	+ 0.02	180
Est. sales: 205,547. Prev. sales: 108,495					
Prev. open int.: 1,145,369 off 1,098					
3-MONTH PIBOR (MATIF) FF5 million - pts of 100 pct					
Mar 97	96.75	96.67	96.73	+0.02	74,656
Jun 97	96.77	96.69	96.76	+0.03	49,278
Sep 97	96.74	96.64	96.72	+0.03	33,842
Dec 97	96.66	96.55	96.64	+0.04	24,225
Mar 98	96.54	96.43	96.52	+0.04	17,464
Jun 98	96.35	96.26	96.34	+0.04	16,287
Sep 98	96.13	96.05	96.13	+0.04	11,289
Dec 98	95.85	95.78	95.85	+0.04	10,710
Mar 99	95.52	95.52	95.58	+0.04	12,418
Jun 99	N.T.	N.T.	95.26	+0.00	5,694
Sep 99	94.99	94.99	95.04	+0.03	2,704
Dec 99	94.75	94.75	94.76	—0.01	1,241
Est. volume: 69,556. Open int.: 259,808 off 4,662.					
3-MONTH EUROLIRA (LIFFE) ITL 1 million - pts of 100 pct					
Mar97	93.28	93.18	93.24	— 0.03	93,089
Jun97	93.82	93.72	93.77	— 0.03	64,765
Sep97	94.15	94.06	94.12	— 0.03	42,164
Dec97	94.30	94.22	94.29	— 0.02	29,480
Mar98	94.37	94.29	94.37	+ 0.01	14,859
Jun98	94.36	94.26	94.35	+ 0.03	8,867
Est. sales: 56,445. Prev. sales: 17,546					
Prev. open int.: 253,943 up 208					
Industrials					
COTTON 2 (NCTN) 50,000 lbs.- cents per lb.					
Mar 97	75.80	74.90	75.10	—0.16	21,480
May 97	76.75	76.25	76.40	—0.13	18,110
Jul 97	77.40	77.20	77.30	—0.25	8,153
Oct 97	77.55	77.30	77.50		1,512
Dec 97	77.59	77.30	77.50	+0.06	11,886
Mar 98	78.25	78.30	78.30		773
Est. sales N.A. Mon's. sales 7,481					
Mon's open int 82,289 off 296					
HEATING OIL (NMER) 42,000 gal, cents per gal					
Feb 97	67.55	66.60	66.83	—0.46	25,589
Mar 97	66.20	65.45	65.61	—0.20	29,698
Apr 97	63.60	63.05	63.16	—0.03	13,372
May 97	61.05	60.10	60.71	+0.07	5,719
Jun 97	59.25	57.80	59.06	+0.17	5,851
Jul 97	58.50	58.36	58.36	+0.17	3,482
Aug 97	58.60	58.56	58.56	+0.17	3,092
Sep 97	59.00	58.96	58.96	+0.17	3,046
Oct 97			59.36	+0.17	1,869
Nov 97			59.76	+0.22	1,463
Est. sales 30,716 Mon's. sales 36,285					
Mon's open int 102,913 off 3					
LIGHT SWEET CRUDE (NMER) 1,000 bbl.- dollars per bbl.					
Mar 97	24.17	23.84	23.90	—0.04	82,630
Apr 97	23.65	23.35	23.42	—0.02	37,599
May 97	23.15	22.95	22.96	—0.02	22,463
Jun 97	22.71	22.53	22.53	—0.02	31,418
Jul 97	22.25	22.17	22.17		15,854
Aug 97	21.95	21.85	21.85	+0.02	14,432
Sep 97	21.65	21.55	21.55	+0.04	15,602
Oct 97	21.35	21.11	21.25	+0.05	10,329
Nov 97	21.06	20.95	20.95	+0.05	7,678
Dec 97	20.80	20.68	20.68	+0.05	25,339
Jan 98	20.53	20.45	20.45	+0.05	11,969
Feb 98			20.27	+0.05	7,364
Mar 98			20.11	+0.05	2,127
Est. sales 46,257 Mon's. sales 68,115					
Mon's open int 348,564 up 872					
NATURAL GAS (NMER) 10,000 mm btu's, $ per mm btu					
Mar 97	2.640	2.525	2.546		29,251
Apr 97	2.328	2.230	2.257		16,079
May 97	2.155	2.090	2.122		12,337
Jun 97	2.130	2.080	2.100		8,660
Jul 97	2.125	2.085	2.110		8,837
Aug 97	2.125	2.085	2.110		7,673
Sep 97	2.120	2.100	2.120		6,453
Oct 97	2.150	2.105	2.150		8,022
Nov 97	2.255	2.210	2.255		4,472
Dec 97	2.375	2.345	2.370		7,563
Jan 98	2.410	2.387	2.410		5,852
Est. sales N.A. Mon's. sales 65,764					
Mon's open int 151,302 off 3774					
UNLEADED GASOLINE (NMER) 42,000 gal, cents per gal					
Feb 97	68.05	66.80	67.04	—0.58	16,290
Mar 97	68.10	67.00	67.25	—0.40	25,598
Apr 97	69.50	68.75	68.86	—0.38	11,503
May 97	68.95	68.30	68.38	—0.17	8,286
Jun 97	67.60	67.13	67.13	—0.12	5,530
Jul 97	65.85	65.38	65.38	—0.02	2,906
Est. sales 22,309 Mon's. sales 29,351					
Mon's open int 73,651 up 308					
GASOIL (IPE) U.S. dollars per metric ton - lots of 100 tons					
Feb 97	203.00	199.50	200.50	+0.75	22,702
Mar 97	198.25	196.00	196.50	+0.25	15,549
Apl 97	193.00	191.25	191.50	Unch.	7,967
May 97	187.75	187.00	187.00	+0.50	3,464
Jun 97	185.25	184.75	185.00	+0.50	7,410
Jul 97	184.75	184.75	184.50	+0.75	2,684
Aug 97	184.50	184.50	184.50	+0.75	1,115
Sept 97	184.25	184.25	184.25	+0.75	937
Oct 97	184.00	184.00	184.00	+0.75	1,021
Nov 97	183.75	183.75	183.75	+0.75	459
Dec 97	184.25	183.50	183.50	+0.75	3,068
Est. sales: 15,435. Open int.:67,855 up 1,579					
BRENT OIL (IPE) U.S. dollars per barrel - lots of 1,000 barrels					
Mar 97	22.39	22.18	22.25	+0.20	64,820
Apr 97	21.96	21.73	21.73	+0.07	30,481
May 97	21.53	21.39	21.37	+0.05	16,410
June 97	21.19	21.06	21.03	+0.05	17,275
July 97	20.85	20.76	20.71	+0.05	12,009
Aug 97	20.55	20.47	20.40	+0.03	3,009
Sep 97	20.28	20.24	20.13	+0.03	3,381
Oct 97	19.98	19.92	19.42	+0.03	3,276
Nov 97	N.T.	N.T.	19.62	+0.03	2,632
Dec 97	N.T.	N.T.	19.38	+0.03	3,270
Est. sales: 34,100. Open int.: 159,328 off 847					
Stock Indexes					
S&P COMP. INDEX (CMER) 500 x index					
Mar 97	781.00	763.50	766.00	—3.95	182,170
Jun 97	788.10	771.50	773.00	—3.15	9,478
Sep 97	795.00	780.00	780.50	—3.90	1,756
Dec 97			791.75		1,321
Est. sales N.A. Mon's. sales					
Mon's open int					
FTSE 100 (LIFFE) £25 per index point					
Mar97	4258.0	4184.0	4243.0	+ 33.0	60,842
Jun97	N.T	N.T	4266.0	+ 33.0	4,779
Sep97	N.T	N.T	4293.0	+ 32.0	1,396
Est. sales: 16,948. Prev. sales: 9,287					
Prev. open int.: 67,017 up 81					
CAC 40 (MATIF) FF200 per index point					
Jan 97	2486.0	2432.0	2484.5	+48.50	21,632
Feb 97	2490.0	2437.0	2489.0	+48.00	10,897
Mar 97	2494.0	2443.0	2495.0	+48.00	18,781
Jun 97	N.T.	N.T.	2458.0	+48.50	7,590
Sep 97	2430.0	2425.5	2469.5	+49.00	6,576
Dec. 97	2449.0	2449.0	2489.5	+2489.5	0
Mar 98	N.T.	N.T.	2503.0	+48.50	6,993
Sep 98	N.T.	N.T.	2478.0	+48.50	710
Est. volume: 37,376. Open int.: 67,173 up 577.					

Commodity Indexes

	Close	Previous
Moody's	1,478.20	1,471.30
Reuters	1,960.10	1,956.70
D.J. Futures	152.05	151.56
CRB	242.47	243.63

Bonn's Optimism on Joblessness Is Disputed

By John Schmid
International Herald Tribune

FRANKFURT — The government said Tuesday that unemployment would reach another postwar record this year, but it added that the days of peak joblessness would soon be over.

But opposition politicians and private economists said the government's upbeat forecast of a midyear "turnaround" in the job market amounted to wishful thinking.

As Economics Minister Guenter Rexrodt presented its annual economic report, opponents launched new attacks on the government's two most critical job-creation and economy-boosting initiatives: tax reform and a concurrent overhaul of the nation's taxpayer-funded retirement system.

Against a background of what has become daily criticism, Mr. Rexrodt warned that the main threat to his economic goals stemmed from "constant discussion and a tug-of-war" that dogged the government's austerity plan last year. Germany will never become fit for global competition *without such* measures to pare back the generous welfare state, the minister said.

Opponents of those proposals within Chancellor Helmut Kohl's coalition should get back in line, Mr. Rexrodt urged. The labor wing of Mr. Kohl's Christian Democrats, led by Labor Minister Norbert Bluem, has joined unions and opposition politicians in faulting the government's tax-reform proposals. At the same time, some of the harshest condemnations Tuesday of the pension reform plan drafted by Mr. Bluem similarly emanated from within the coalition.

"We *can* only meet our goals by persistently carrying out the reforms," said Mr. Rexrodt. "Unfortunately the recognition of the necessity for such reforms is not yet adequately developed. Reforms are unpopular because they threaten entitlement."

The government's report, titled "Reforms for Jobs," predicts unemployment will hit an average of 4.16 million, up from 3.9 million in 1996, increasing the unemployment rate to 11 percent from 10.3 percent.

"Employment at the end of the year in both the East and West will be higher than at the end of 1996, and the unemployment lower," Mr. Rexrodt said. The revised outlook now sees a budget deficit of 2.9 percent of gross domestic product, up from an earlier forecast of 2.5 percent and precariously close to the 3 percent level required to join the European Union's planned single currency.

The job-market turnaround should come in April or May, after the winter fades and allows seasonal labor disruptions to subside, Mr. Rexrodt said. A relatively soft Deutsche mark should propel exports, the main engine of economic recovery, which are to grow an estimated 6.4 percent this year, according to the report, up from 4.6 percent in 1996. Low interest rates and low inflation add to the recovery scenario, according to the report.

But Mr. Rexrodt's goal of driving unemployment back below 4 million is improbable because investment remains sluggish, said Juergen Donges, a Cologne University professor and a member of the government council *of economic advisers.*

"I can seen no quick solution that would lead to a clear retreat in unemployment in 1997, unfortunately," Mr. Donges said.

The opposition Social Democrats said the statement showed unfounded optimism.

"Indebtedness has gone up 20 percent, the jobless numbers have risen; the optimism expressed by the 1997 annual economic report is unfounded," Ernst Schwanhold, the Social Democrat spokesman said in a radio broadcast.

Because tax reform does not take effect until 1999, "nothing happens for two years," he charged. "We need a dynamism in the economy now."

"I cannot see that the labor-market situation will turn around anytime soon," said Thomas Mayer, an economist in Frankfurt at Goldman Sachs. "There is a considerable amount of wishful thinking."

Michael Lewis of Deutsche Bank agreed that unemployment would peak by midyear but said any improvements would be slight. "The actual level will remain high rather than falling significantly," Mr. Lewis said.

■ Some Urged to Sit Out Euro Launch

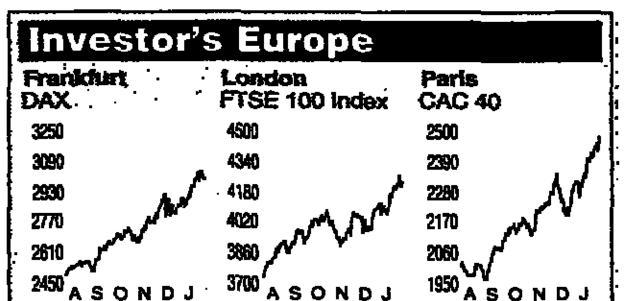
Germany played down expectations that Europe's single currency would begin with a *big starting lineup in 1999, urging strict* compliance to convergence goals to ensure that the euro is stable, Reuters reported from Bonn.

Juergen Stark, state secretary at the Finance Ministry and a hard-liner on monetary union, said some aspirants should forsake the prestige of joining the economic and monetary union at the outset and should watch from the sidelines until they were ready to join.

"There are members whose economic structures are not yet well enough prepared to take part," Mr. Stark said at a conference of German newspaper editors near the capital.

Even some countries that qualify on paper "would be well advised to maintain exchange-rate flexibility for a certain period," he said.

Investor's Europe



Exchange	Index	Tuesday Close	Prev. Close	% Change
Amsterdam	EOE	683.18	682.48	+0.10
Brussels	BEL-20	2,050.44	2,043.99	+0.32
Frankfurt	DAX	2,989.33	2,994.53	-0.17
Copenhagen	Stock Market	505.24	503.87	+0.27
Helsinki	HEX General	2,735.99	2,707.23	+1.06
Oslo	OBX	573.94	571.67	+0.40
London	FTSE 100	4,237.40	4,212.00	+0.60
Madrid	Stock Exchange	466.47	458.20	+1.80
Milan	MIBTEL	12,480.00	12,379.00	+0.82
Paris	CAC 40	2,482.76	2,435.17	+1.95
Stockholm	SX 16	2,706.86	2,678.31	+1.07
Vienna	ATX	1,172.94	1,175.21	-0.19
Zurich	SPI	2,676.67	2,642.51	+1.29

Source: Telekurs — International Herald Tribune

Siemens Profit Drops As Chip Prices Falter

Bloomberg News

MUNICH — Siemens AG said Tuesday that net profit in its first quarter fell 5 percent despite a jump in new orders and improved domestic sales.

Siemens, Germany's largest electronics and engineering company, said net income for the quarter that ended Dec. 31 fell to 478 million Deutsche marks ($290 million) from 503 million DM because of declining prices for memory chips. Although Siemens shares closed at 78.78 DM, up 0.20, large investors say the company has not done enough to increase profit.

"We underweight the shares and will continue to underweight them because *of the low earnings,"* said Peter Roemer, a fund manager at The Germany Fund.

"The company hasn't done enough restructuring to compete in*ternationally."*

But another analyst, Pierre Drach of Independent Research, said the 22 percent jump in new orders and better-than-expected 6 percent increase in domestic sales in the latest quarter offered hope for a turnaround.

New orders in the first quarter rose to 27 billion DM from 22.2 billion DM. Sales improved to 20.9 billion DM from 19.7 billion DM. International sales were also improved, in part by a stronger dollar, Siemens said.

■ German Bank Dividends

Deutsche Bank AG and Commerzbank AG, two of Germany's largest commercial banks, announced separately that they would keep their 1996 dividends unchanged, news agencies reported from Frankfurt.

Deutsche Bank, the country's largest, said it would pay a regular dividend of 1.85 DM a share. Commerzbank announced a dividend of 1.35 DM a share.

Commerzbank shares fell 1.40 DM to 42.40; Deutsche Bank shares closed at 83.30, down 1.85.

(Bloomberg, AP)

A Mitsubishi Debut, Italian Style

Japanese Firm and Pininfarina to Make Sport-Utility Car

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

TOKYO — Mitsubishi Motors Corp., marking the first foray into Italy by a Japanese carmaker, said Tuesday it would invest 20 billion *yen ($167.9 million) in* a project to produce a Mitsubishi brand sport-utility car in that country.

Mitsubishi said the project, part of an eight-year agreement with *Industrie Pininfarina* SpA, would build a new sports-utility model.

The cars are to go on sale in the spring of 1999 through Mitsubishi's European sales network

About 35,000 of the vehicles are to be made at Pininfarina's Turin plant for Mitsubishi, which will handle most of the design and planning. But Pininfarina will ad*vise Mitsubishi on the design of* the vehicle and will invest about 2 billion yen in the project, Mitsubishi said.

Mitsubishi Motors' investment will include 2 billion yen to raise Pininfarina's assembly-line capacity from a range of 35,000 to 40,000 vehicles to more than 60,000, the Italian automaker said. Pininfarina already makes luxury and sports cars for Fiat SpA, PSA Peugeot Citroën SA and Alfa-Lancia SpA. Mitsubishi Motors' chairman, Hirokazu Nakamura, said he visited Pininfarina's car factory 30 years ago and had hoped ever since then to do business with the company eventually.

Mitsubishi also said it aimed to raise its European sales of Mitsubishi brand cars to 330,000 a year by 2000 from the current 220,000. It said about half the projected sales would be of cars made in Europe.

Mitsubishi Motors said its existing car-production link with *Volvo AB would not be affected* by the agreement with Pininfarina. Those two automakers are also holding talks about selling each other's trucks in Europe and Asia.

Mitsubishi already sells its Pajero in Europe's rapidly growing market for sport-utility vehicles. It sold 38,460 of the vehicles last year, all of them made in Japan.

(Reuters, Bloomberg)

■ VW's '96 Deliveries Rise

Volkswagen AG, profiting from a gamble on international sales, said its global deliveries climbed to nearly 4 million vehicles in 1996, making it the fourth-largest carmaker in the world, Reuters reported from Frankfurt.

VW said worldwide vehicle deliveries rose to 3.97 million units from 3.56 million in 1995, giving it 10 percent of the global passenger-vehicle market, compared with 9.4 percent in 1995.

Higher sales abroad, including a 41 percent gain in Eastern Europe, *were offset by a meager 2.6* percent increase in sales in Germany, even as total German vehicle sales rose 5 percent. Prospects for 1997 will depend on the launch of the *new Golf car as well as other new* products and on marketing efforts, VW officials said.

Very briefly:

- **Imperial Tobacco PLC** said it bought **Rizla International** BV, the world's biggest producer of hand-rolling tobacco papers, *for £168 million ($277.5 million) cash in a bid to* broaden its presence beyond Britain.
- **Donaldson, Lufkin & Jenrette Inc.** said it would buy the **Phoenix Group Ltd.**, a British financial advisory and investment management group, to build an investment banking business in Europe and the Far East.
- **Hanson PLC** said its **Energy Group** would be spun off on Feb. 24 in a demerger in which Hanson shareholders will receive one Energy share for every 10 Hanson shares held.
- **Olivetti SpA's** shares fell 5 lire, to 650 lire, on Tuesday after falling earlier in the day as much as 3.7 percent as pessimism grew in the market about the group's preliminary results for 1996, which are due to be announced late Wednesday.
- **KirchGruppe's** DF1 digital TV network can continue to be *marketed throughout Germany, a Hamburg court ruled,* DF1 reported. The decision overrules an injunction obtained by the pay TV channel Premiere that had banned DF1 from distribution outside Bavaria.

Bloomberg, Reuters, AFX

Novartis Sees Flat Profit

Reuters

ZURICH — Novartis AG, the pharmaceutical giant formed through the merger last year of Ciba-Geigy AG and Sandoz AG, reported 1996 sales Tuesday that were in line with expectations but forecast flat profit.

Novartis said it had sales last year of 36.23 billion Swiss *francs ($25.61 billion), compared with a total of 35.94 billion* francs for Ciba-Geigy and Sandoz in 1995. The combined 1995 net income of Ciba and Sandoz was 4.2 billion francs, and Novartis said it would be about the same for 1996.

WORLD STOCK MARKETS

Tuesday, Jan. 28
Prices in local currencies.
Telekurs

Amsterdam
EOE Index: 683.18 — Previous: 682.48

	High	Low	Close	Prev.
ABN-AMRO	122.90	119.40	122.30	120.60
Aegon	120.30	117.80	119.10	119.50
Ahold	113.70	111.30	112.90	113.10
Akzo Nobel	266.30	261.80	264.60	266.20
Baan Co.	82	78.40	81.50	78.10
Bols Wess cva	34.20	33.40	34	34.20
CSM cva	102	100.70	102.10	101.90
Dordtsche Pet	340	335.30	339.50	336
DSM	178	174.20	176.30	180.60
Elsevier	27.60	27.20	27.50	27.50
Fortis Amev	68.90	66.60	68.60	68.50
Getronics	53	51.50	52.30	53
G-Broc cva	59.40	58.40	59.10	59.50
Hagemeyer	147	144.10	146.90	146.70
Heineken	295	291.60	292.20	294
Hoogovens cva	72.90	71.50	72.80	72.70
Hunt Douglas	129	126.50	127.20	128
ING Group	70.70	69	70.60	70.50
KLM	55.80	54.40	54.90	55.90
KNP BT	41.10	40.40	41	41.20
KPN	68.20	67.10	67.80	67.90
Nedlloyd Gp	57.20	56.50	57	57.50
Nutricia	267.30	261	266	267.30
Oce Grinten	211.80	208.60	209.60	211.30
Philips Elec	75.20	73.80	74.70	74.70
Polygram	84.40	82.70	83.90	83.90
Randstad Hdg	131	128	130.80	130.20
Robeco	153	151.20	152.10	149.70
Rodamco	54.80	54.30	54.60	54.80
Rolinco	158.40	158.40	158.40	157.80
Rorento	108.50	108.10	108.30	108.10
Royal Dutch	321.20	316.20	320.10	317
Unilever cva	308.90	304.10	308.90	305.10
Vendex Intl	82.40	81.20	82.20	81.60
VNU	37.60	36.30	36.50	37.50
Wolters Kl cva	227.70	223.50	224.60	227

Bangkok
SET Index: 842.63 — Previous: 848.42

	High	Low	Close	Prev.
Adv Info Svc	274	268	272	266
Bangkok Bk F	270	268	268	268
Krung Thai Bk	52	50.50	51	51
PTT Explor	396	392	392	398
Siam Cement F	900	896	896	896
Siam Com Bk F	200	199	200	199
Telecomasia	53	52.50	53	53
Thai Airways	41.25	40	41.25	40.50
Thai Farm Bk F	180	175	179	175
Utd Comm	189	183	189	180

Bombay
Sensex 30 Index: 3684.20 — Previous: 3562.74

	High	Low	Close	Prev.
Bajaj Auto	943	925.50	937.75	937
Hindust Lever	887	880	882	884.75
Hindust Petm	390	378	390	387.50
Ind Dev Bk	101	97	97	98
ITC	406	396	403	402
Mahanagar Tel	248	240.50	245	245.50
Reliance Ind	281	269	280.50	272.50
State Bk India	314	294.75	312.50	294.50
Steel Authority	24	23.25	23.75	23.75
Tata Eng Loco	364	349	355	357

Brussels
BEL-20 Index: 2050.44 — Previous: 2043.99

	High	Low	Close	Prev.
Almanij	12200	12000	12200	12175
Barco Ind	5510	5420	5500	5480
BBL	7140	7030	7140	7050
Bekaert	19525	18900	19475	19075
CBR	3270	3150	3190	3220
CMB	2120	2050	2120	2100
Cobepa	1250	1234	1240	1254
Cockerill	117	115	116	116
Colruyt	14425	14350	14350	14400
Delhaize Lion	1940	1910	1930	1920
Electrabel	7890	7860	7880	7890
Electrafina	3150	3115	3150	3135
Fortis AG	5690	5570	5650	5620
Gevaert	2320	2295	2300	2305
GIB	1570	1545	1570	1555
GBL	4560	4450	4550	4520
Gen Banque	12175	11875	12150	11950
Kredietbank	11975	11825	11875	12025
Petrofina	11400	11175	11350	11300
Powerfin	4770	4745	4760	4780
Royale Belge	7110	6990	7110	7020
Soc Gen Belg	2575	2520	2550	2525
Solvay	23150	22800	23000	23100
Tractebel	14750	14675	14675	14700
UCB	96250	95500	95900	95800
Union Miniere	2380	2345	2380	2350

Copenhagen
Stock Index: 505.24 — Previous: 503.87

	High	Low	Close	Prev.
BG Bank	295	288	290	292
Carlsberg B	393	387	393	387
Codan Fors	830	830	830	830
Danisco	366	362	364	365
Den Danske Bk	506	498	505	508
D/S Svendbrg B	255000	253000	255000	254000
D/S 1912 B	175000	174000	174000	175000
FLS Ind B	846	840	840	840
Kob Lufthavns	675	666	670	670
Nvo Nordisk B	560	550	550	555
Sophus Ber B	818	805	818	805
Tele Danmk B	355	346	355	348
Tryg Baltica	328	321	324	323
Unidanmark A	342	300.22	337	340

Frankfurt
DAX: 2989.33 — Previous: 2994.53

	High	Low	Close	Prev.
AMB B	950	940	950	945
Adidas	156.50	155	156	157.80
Allianz Hdg	2858	2806	2833	2817
Altana	1279	1271.50	1271.50	1272
Bk Berlin	33.90	32.80	32.80	32.95
BASF	59.10	58.87	59.10	59
Bayer Hypo Bk	53	52.20	52.83	53.45
Bay.Vereinsbank	62.80	62.40	62.70	62.70
Bayer	61.80	61.50	61.55	61.33
Beiersdorf	82.50	81.40	82.10	81.10
BMW	1040	1026	1026	1023
Commerzbank	42.65	42.30	42.40	43.80
Daimler Benz	114.35	113.90	114.10	113.70
Degussa	703	696.20	696.20	711
Deutsche Bank	83.75	83.30	83.30	85.15
Deut Telekom	30.80	30.60	30.64	30.52
Dresdner Bank	52.40	52.15	52.20	53.30
Fresenius	318	316.50	318	316
Fresenius Med	144.40	143.80	143.80	146.20
Fried. Krupp	251.50	248.50	251	248.20
Gehe	111.50	109.80	111.50	110.50
Heidelbg Zmt	131.50	130.30	130.50	131.50
Henkel pfd	82.40	81.70	82.10	81.50
Hochtief	67.88	67	67.85	67.35
Hoechst	69.15	68.60	69.15	69.20
Karstadt	490	486	487	494
Linde	1040	1035	1036	1036
Lufthansa	22.45	22.05	22.15	22.15
MAN	408	405.50	408	406.50
Mannesmann	655.50	642	654.50	644.50
Metallgesellschaft	32.50	32.05	32.10	32.30
Metro	126.70	126.20	126.70	127
Munch Rueck R	3695	3610	3675	3650
Preussag	383	380.50	380.50	380
RWE	67.75	67.30	67.60	66.50
SAP pfd	227.30	221	221.50	229.50
Schering	135.70	133.65	135.70	134.70
Siemens	79.30	78.60	78.78	78.58
Thyssen	293.50	291.50	291.70	292.50
Veba	90.18	89.95	90	90.53
VEW	499.50	495	495.50	498
Viag	654.50	650.50	652.50	659
Volkswagen	770.50	765	767.25	767.50

Helsinki
HEX General Index: 2735.99 — Previous: 2707.23

	High	Low	Close	Prev.
Cultor 1	252	245	252	250
Enso A	38.50	38	38	37.80
Huhtamaki I	217	215.80	216.90	216
Kemira	54.90	54.20	54.80	54.90
Kesko	65.70	65	65.50	65.50
Merita A	16.50	16	16.50	16.20
Metra B	276	264.10	276	271
Metsa-Serla B	36.50	35.60	36.50	35.50
Neste	121	118	121	119
Nokia A	314	303	313	310
Orion-Yhtymae	181	176.50	181	180
Outokumpu A	79.90	77.50	79.90	77.50
Rautaruukki	44	43.30	44	43.70
Sampo Insur	427	419	426	420
UPM-Kymmene	98.50	97	98.50	97.80
Valmet	88.40	84.50	88	84.90

Hong Kong
Hang Seng: 13403.29 — Previous: 13294.98

	High	Low	Close	Prev.
Amoy Props	10.20	9.90	10.20	9.85
Bk East Asia	35.70	35	35.50	35.20
Cathay Pacific	11.85	11.60	11.70	11.70
Cheung Kong	75.25	73.75	74.50	74
CK Infrastruct	22.65	21.85	22.65	21.85
China Light	33.70	33.70	33.70	33.70
China Osea Ld	4	3.88	4	3.90
China Res Ent	16.40	15.90	15.90	16.20
Chin Estates	8.50	8.20	8.25	8.40
Citic Pacific	39.50	39.50	39.50	39.50
Cosco Pacific	9.15	8.75	8.80	8.80
Dao Heng Bk	39.10	37.60	38.70	37.50
First Pacific	10.75	10.65	10.70	10.60
Great Eagle	33.30	32.60	32.80	33
Guangdong Inv	6.95	6.75	6.85	6.85
Guoco Group	44.60	44	44.70	44.20
Hang Lung Dev	16.85	15.80	16.05	15.80
Hang Seng Bk	92	90.50	91.25	91.25
Henderson Inv	9.10	8.95	9.05	9
Henderson Ld	74.75	72.50	74.75	73
HKR Intl	12.55	12.20	12.35	12.10
HK China Gas	14.75	14.45	14.65	14.50
HK Electric	27.10	26.75	26.80	26.80
HK Shang Hils	14.20	14.10	14.25	14.20
HK Telecomm	13.20	12.80	13.20	12.65
Hopewell Hdgs	4.78	4.65	4.75	4.68
HSBC Hdgs	177	174	175	175.50
Hutchison Wh	60.50	59.50	60	59.75
Hysan Dev	28.75	28.50	28.70	28.65
Johnson El Hdg	23.65	23.40	23.65	23.30
Kerry Props	20.20	20	20	20
Natl Mutual	7.60	7.50	7.50	7.55
New World Dev	49.40	48.30	49	48.40
N World Infrastr	22.70	22.50	22.60	22.65
Oriental Press	3	2.93	3	2.95
Pearl Oriental	5.65	5.50	5.65	5.65
Shanghai Indus	28.25	27.90	28.05	27.85
Shangri-La Asia	11.50	11.30	11.40	11.50
SHK Props	91	89.75	90.75	89.50
Shun Tak Hdgs	5.35	5.25	5.25	5.25
Sino Land Co.	9	8.85	9	8.95
Sth China Post	6.35	6.25	6.35	6.30
Swire Pac A	73	72	72.75	71.75
Tsim Sha Tsui	19.90	19.40	19.90	19.60
TV Broadcsts	32.90	32.50	32.80	32.80
Wharf Hdgs	36.40	36	36	35.80
Wheelock	22.45	22.05	22.20	22.10

Jakarta
Composite Index: 689.97 — Previous: 684.96

	High	Low	Close	Prev.
Astra Intl	6425	6325	6375	6350
Bk Intl Indon	1850	1800	1825	1850
Bk Negara	1625	1575	1600	1600
Gudang Garm	11875	11700	11825	11775
Indocement	3625	3575	3625	3600
Indofood	5100	5000	5075	4950
Indosat	6900	6775	6825	6950
Sampoerna HM	14500	14300	14500	14200
Semen Gresik	7650	7425	7475	7450
Telekomunikasi	4225	4150	4200	4125

Johannesburg
All Market: 6735.97 — Previous: 6489.04

	High	Low	Close	Prev.
Amalgamtd Bks	25.70	25.55	25.65	25.60
AngloAm Coal	316.50	315	316.50	318
AngloAm Corp	252.50	249	252.50	248
AngloAm Gold	339	337	338	327
AngloAm Ind	169.25	168.75	169	169.50
Barlow	46.50	46.15	46.50	46.50
C.G. Smith	23.30	22.15	23.30	23.30
De Beers	139.50	139	139.50	139
Driefontein	44.50	43.65	44.40	42.80
Fst Natl Bk	25	24.80	24.80	24.80
Gencor	18.80	18.60	18.70	18.70
GFSA	110.50	107	110.50	107
Iscor	3.69	3.66	3.66	3.70
Liberty Hdgs	321	319.50	320	320
Liberty Life	120	118.75	119.75	118.75
Minorco	105.75	105.50	105.75	106
Nampak	18.25	17.70	17.90	18
Nedcor	69.50	67.25	69.50	67.25
Rembrandt Gp	42.85	42.35	42.85	42.50
Richemont	65	62	65	63
Rust Platinum	61	60	61	59.25
SA Breweries	124	122	124	122.75
Samancor	49.75	49.50	49.75	49.50
Sasol	55.25	54.50	55	53.25
SBIC	183.50	183	183	182.75
Tiger Oats	66.25	65.75	66.25	65.75

Kuala Lumpur
Composite: 1228.89 — Previous: 1239.35

	High	Low	Close	Prev.
Genting	17.40	17	17.20	17.30
Mal Banking	29	28	28.25	29
Mal Intl Ship F	6.60	6.55	6.55	6.55
Petronas Gas	9.50	9.35	9.40	9.50
Renong	4.48	4.44	4.46	4.48
Resorts World	13.10	12.80	12.80	13.10
Sime Darby	9.35	9.25	9.30	9.35
Telekom Mal	20.60	19.90	20.10	20.60
Tenaga	12.90	12	12.40	12.90
Utd Engineers	21.70	21.50	21.70	21.70

London
FT-SE 100: 4237.40 — Previous: 4212.00

	High	Low	Close	Prev.
Abbey Natl	7.55	7.40	7.41	7.53
Allied Domecq	4.21	4.12	4.15	4.19
Anglian Water	6.18	6.10	6.12	6.19
Argos	6.42	6.30	6.40	6.41
Asda Group	1.25	1.20	1.24	1.20
Assoc Br Foods	4.86	4.77	4.83	4.79
BAA	5.23	5.06	5.20	5.11
Barclays	11.54	11.28	11.54	11.45
Bass	8.78	8.67	8.74	8.68
BAT Ind	4.95	4.75	4.84	4.84
Bank Scotland	3.30	3.21	3.30	3.23
Blue Circle	3.96	3.87	3.92	3.93
BOC Group	9.30	9.25	9.28	9.27
Boots	6.49	6.42	6.48	6.44
BPB Ind	3.71	3.63	3.65	3.75
Brit Aerosp	12.95	12.88	12.93	12.91
Brit Airways	6.01	5.95	5.97	5.98
Brit Gas	2.26	2.22	2.24	2.26
Brit Land	5.18	5	5.05	5.20
Brit Petm	7.36	7.17	7.30	7.19
BSkyB	5.85	5.64	5.80	5.64
Brit Steel	1.52	1.48	1.49	1.50
Brit Telecom	4.25	4.19	4.24	4.23
BTR	2.63	2.57	2.59	2.62
Burmah Castrol	10.27	10.20	10.22	10.27
Burton Gp	1.52	1.49	1.51	1.49
Cable Wireless	4.87	4.77	4.84	4.80
Cadbury Schw	4.83	4.75	4.80	4.82
Carlton Comm	5.16	4.96	5.07	4.98
Comml Union	7.03	6.94	6.95	7.03
Compass Gp	6.75	6.68	6.72	6.75
Courtaulds	3.87	3.80	3.84	3.86
Dixons	4.95	4.82	4.89	4.97
Electrocomponents	4.60	4.56	4.58	4.58
EMI Group	12.75	12.55	12.75	12.61
Enterprise Oil	6.43	6.32	6.42	6.31
Fors Colonial	1.51	1.49	1.51	1.49
Genl Accident	7.95	7.87	7.88	7.97
GEC	3.97	3.92	3.95	3.96
GKN	9.98	9.23	9.94	9.98
Glaxo Wellcome	9.69	9.53	9.67	9.57
Granada Gp	8.87	8.80	8.84	8.80
Grand Met	4.60	4.50	4.58	4.55
GRE	2.79	2.74	2.78	2.77
Greenalls Gp	5.72	5.65	5.68	5.72
Guinness	4.47	4.41	4.43	4.46
GUS	6.21	6.08	6.21	6.12
Hanson	0.96	0.91	0.93	0.95
Hays	5.63	5.56	5.61	5.59
HSBC Hldgs	14.22	13.93	14.22	14.05
ICI	7.60	7.45	7.50	7.58
Impl Tobacco	3.98	3.85	3.96	3.84
Kingfisher	6.76	6.69	6.72	6.68
Ladbroke	2.30	2.23	2.29	2.29
Land Sec	7.70	7.56	7.60	7.68
Lasmo	2.45	2.37	2.43	2.38
Legal Genl Grp	3.77	3.62	3.68	3.75
Lloyds TSB Gp	4.77	4.58	4.73	4.68
LucasVarity	2.22	2.06	2.19	2.06
Marks Spencer	4.94	4.77	4.91	4.77
MEPC	4.52	4.42	4.45	4.55
Mercury Asset	13.15	12.94	13.11	13
National Grid	2.17	2.05	2.07	2.11
Natl Power	5.06	4.67	4.97	5.04
NatWest	7.76	7.58	7.72	7.75
Next	5.75	5.57	5.71	5.59
Orange	2.15	2.08	2.10	2.13
P&O	6.34	6.24	6.34	6.26
Pearson	7.58	7.42	7.55	7.51
Pilkington	1.50	1.44	1.50	1.46
PowerGen	6.51	6.45	6.50	6.49
Premier Farnell	6.95	6.88	6.94	6.87
Prudential	5.48	5.39	5.46	5.44
Railtrack PP	3.83	3.63	3.73	3.81
Rank Group	4.27	4.14	4.25	4.16
Reckitt Colm	7.14	7.03	7.12	7.07
Redland	3.57	3.35	3.56	3.38
Reed Intl	10.37	10.18	10.37	10.29
Rentokil Initial	4.65	4.53	4.63	4.52
Reuters Hdgs	6.75	6.55	6.67	6.74
Rexam	3.39	3.30	3.36	3.36
RMC Group	9.80	9.34	9.73	9.37
Rolls Royce	2.44	2.38	2.41	2.44
Royal Bk Scot	5.87	5.73	5.82	5.87
RTZ reg	9.42	9.28	9.40	9.31
Royal & Sun All	4.72	4.61	4.68	4.71
Safeway	3.83	3.75	3.83	3.76
Sainsbury	3.55	3.30	3.33	3.32
Schroders	16.78	16.40	16.50	16.48
Scot Newcastle	6.88	6.80	6.86	6.82
Scot Power	3.73	3.58	3.72	3.67
Securicor	2.96	2.93	2.95	2.96
Severn Trent	6.99	6.85	6.91	6.93
Shell Transp R	10.60	10.42	10.59	10.48
Siebe	10.25	10.17	10.20	10.17
Smith Nephew	1.82	1.80	1.81	1.82
SmithKline	8.87	8.55	8.56	8.75
Smiths Ind	7.70	7.65	7.69	7.68
Sthern Elec	7.83	7.75	7.75	7.82
Stagecoach	7.83	7.73	7.74	7.97
Stand Charter	7.37	7.26	7.35	7.34
Tate & Lyle	4.33	4.25	4.29	4.22
Tesco	3.60	3.54	3.57	3.55
Thames Water	6.56	6.45	6.55	6.48
3i Group	5.34	5.18	5.34	5.19
TI Group	5.74	5.38	5.40	5.33
Tomkins	2.79	2.73	2.77	2.74
Unilever	14.03	13.73	14.01	13.76
Utd Assurance	5.07	4.77	4.91	5.02
Utd News	7.20	7.10	7.15	7.18
Utd Utilities	6.60	6.55	6.58	6.60
Vendome Lx units	4.90	4.83	4.88	4.90
Vodafone	2.77	2.67	2.75	2.74
Whitbread	7.72	7.63	7.71	7.65
Williams Hdgs	3.33	3.29	3.31	3.32
Wolseley	4.77	4.72	4.75	4.75
WPP Group	2.52	2.45	2.49	2.47
Zeneca	17.10	16.82	16.99	16.94

Madrid
Bolsa index: 464.47 — Previous: 458.20

	High	Low	Close	Prev.
Acerinox	17900	17250	17900	17090
ACESA	1810	1770	1800	1805
Aguas Barcelon	5800	5610	5790	5680
Argentaria	5860	5690	5830	5720
BBV	7990	7760	7990	7790
Banesto	1165	1125	1145	1135
Bankinter	19890	18930	19840	19000
Bco Centro Hisp	3375	3310	3375	3330
Bco Exterior	2720	2720	2720	2710
Bco Popular	27100	25730	26780	25800
Bco Santander	8580	8280	8570	8330
CEPSA	4500	4380	4490	4490
Continente	2635	2535	2608	2585
Corp Mapfre	8390	7990	8380	8040
Endesa	9480	9190	9480	9300
FECSA	1340	1240	1310	1260
Gas Natural	32500	30870	32460	30970
Iberdrola	1640	1580	1635	1595
Pryca	2650	2515	2625	2540
Repsol	5870	5640	5780	5880
Sevillana Elec	1425	1300	1350	1310
Tabacalera	6370	6200	6320	6240
Telefonica	3265	3180	3260	3240
Union Fenosa	1205	1150	1205	1175
Valenc Cement	1430	1410	1430	1435

Manila
PSE Index: 3341.99 — Previous: 3322.10

	High	Low	Close	Prev.
Ayala B	30	28.50	30	29.50
Ayala Land	31.50	31	31	31
Bk Philip Isl	188	184	187	185
C&P Homes	15	14.50	14.50	14.50
Manila Elec A	129	127	127	126
Metro Bank	690	680	680	685
Petron	11.25	10.75	10.75	10.75
PCIBank	342.50	340	342.50	342.50
Phil Long Dist	1515	1510	1515	1515
San Miguel B	108	104	108	103
SM Prime Hdg	7.70	7.40	7.70	7.50

Mexico
Bolsa index: 3676.74 — Previous: 3685.17

	High	Low	Close	Prev.
Alfa A	42.00	41.30	41.45	41.40
Banacci B	16.04	15.30	15.70	16.00
Cemex CPO	30.00	29.30	29.40	29.50
Cifra C	11.06	10.80	10.82	11.00
Emp Moderna	43.80	42.50	43.30	42.00
Gpo Carso A1	49.50	48.90	49.30	49.10
Gpo Fin Inbursa	29.00	28.40	28.50	28.30
Kimb Clark Mex	170.50	166.60	166.60	170.30
Televisa CPO	105.60	105.00	105.00	104.50
TelMex L	14.72	14.54	14.58	14.56

Milan
MIB Telematico: 12480.00 — Previous: 12379.00

	High	Low	Close	Prev.
Alleanza Assic	12600	12150	12540	12440
Bca Comm Ital	3315	3215	3295	3330
Bca Fideuram	4670	4450	4585	4495
Bca di Roma	1349	1284	1317	1315
Benetton	21500	20800	21450	21200
Credito Italiano	2300	2240	2285	2305
Edison	10650	10235	10555	10390
ENI	8990	8735	8900	8840
Fiat	5325	5170	5320	5320
Generali Assic	33700	32800	33450	33500
IMI	16625	16200	16565	16420
INA	2235	2185	2220	2230
Italgas	6795	6635	6700	6720
Mediaset	7550	7350	7515	7485
Mediobanca	10980	10550	10930	10785
Montedison	1319	1282	1310	1319
Parmalat	2705	2645	2675	2710
Pirelli	3625	3515	3530	3545
RAS	15920	15530	15920	15720
Rolo Banca	17790	17310	17700	17485
S Paolo Torino	11350	10850	11090	11330
Stet	7980	7545	7980	7710
Telecom Italia	4700	4525	4650	4595
TIM	4890	4680	4855	4750

Montreal
Industrials index: 2876.81 — Previous: 2874.39

	High	Low	Close	Prev.
Bce Mob Com	43	43	43	42.95
Cdn Tire A	21¼	21¼	21.40	21.40
Cdn Util A	32½	32.35	32½	32¼
CT Finl Svc	31.55	31.55	31.55	32
Gaz Metro	16.95	16.20	16.40	16.20
Gt-West Lifeco	21	20	21	19.95
Imasco	36	35¼	35¼	35.85
Investors Grp	26	25.80	25.85	25.85
Loblaw Cos	16.30	16.20	16.20	16.10
Natl Bk Canada	14.55	14.15	14.15	14.30
Power Corp	28.15	27.90	28.05	28.10
Power Finl	26	25¾	25¾	25.70
Quebecor B	26.20	26.10	26.10	26.20
Rogers Comm B	9.30	9¼	9¼	9.35
Royal Bk Cda	50.30	49.70	49.85	49.85

Oslo
OBX Index: 573.94 — Previous: 571.67

	High	Low	Close	Prev.
Aker A	146	144	145	145
Bergesen Dy A	148	147	147	148
Christiania Bk	22.40	22	22.20	22.40
Den norske Bk	25.70	25.30	25.70	25.70
Elkem	103.50	101	103	101
Hafslund A	50.50	48.40	50	48.80
Kvaerner Asa	310	303	308	304
Norsk Hydro	363.50	360.50	363	362
Norske Skog A	204	198	203.50	198
Nycomed A	113	108.50	112	109
Orkla Asa A	515	509.50	509.50	515
Petm GeoSvc	288	283	284	280
Saga Petm A	125	123.50	124.50	124
Schibsted	140	134	140	133
Transocean Off	440	430	440	441
Storebrand Asa	37	35.80	36.80	36.40

Paris
CAC-40: 2482.76 — Previous: 2435.17

	High	Low	Close	Prev.
Accor	716	694	703	698
AGF	174.30	170.70	173.80	165.80
Air Liquide	875	837	868	837
Alcatel Alsth	455.50	445.60	454.10	453.50
Axa	359.50	354.80	359.50	355
Bancaire	686	672	681	674
BIC	915	880	891	879
BNP	227	222	222	227.20
Canal Plus	1238	1215	1233	1222
Carrefour	3388	3250	3388	3271
Casino	239.50	237.10	239	239
CCF	251.90	248.10	250	251
Cetelem	705	686	691	694
Christian Dior	914	898	898	906
CLF-Dexia Fran	499	487	498.70	496.60
Credit Agricole	1250	1250	1250	1266
Danone	811	792	811	791
Elf-Aquitaine	544	510	541	513
Eridania BS	818	805	810	812
Eurotunnel	7.50	7.20	7.45	7.50
Gen. Eaux	688	668	683	672
Havas	405.90	388.10	404	390.20
Imetal	835	819	835	819
Lafarge	333.30	326	332	327.80
Legrand	908	878	900	887
L'Oreal	1980	1890	1960	1900
LVMH	1500	1467	1491	1487
Lyon. Eaux	564	543	562	535
Michelin B	312	307.10	309	311.50
Paribas A	371	365.20	369	365.80
Pernod Ricard	305.80	294.60	305.80	292.10
Peugeot Cit	574	560	566	563
Pinault-Print	2408	2361	2408	2392
Promodes	1490	1442	1460	1438
Renault	120	115.60	119.70	117.20
Rexel	1880	1690	1775	1690
Rh-Poulenc A	186.70	178.50	180.50	184.60
Roussel-Uclaf	1529	1506	1510	1530
Sanofi	568	549	565	546
Schneider	276.80	266.80	276	266.90
SEB	1130	1120	1120	1120
SGS Thomson	398	369.20	385.80	363.90
Ste Generale	614	603	612	620
Sodexho	2785	2675	2780	2672
St Gobain	830	791	818	792
Suez	248	237.50	248	231.90
Synthelabo	615	588	589	605
Thomson CSF	166.50	161.50	165.40	166.10
Total B	478.50	462.10	474.10	461
Usinor	76.20	71.60	75.85	74.95
Valeo	369	362	363.50	352.10

São Paulo
Bovespa index: 78497.90 — Previous: 77590.60

	High	Low	Close	Prev.
Bradesco Pfd	8.40	8.15	8.40	8.20
Brahma Pfd	618.00	600.00	615.80	615.00
Cemig Pfd	44.50	43.70	43.90	44.30
CESP Pfd	50.71	50.30	50.50	50.60
Copel	13.90	13.70	13.90	13.80
Eletrobras	424.00	416.00	423.00	417.00
Itaubanco Pfd	475.00	467.00	475.00	469.00
Light Servicios	378.17	372.00	373.00	373.00
Lightpar	278.00	276.00	278.00	278.00
Petrobras Pfd	191.00	187.00	190.00	188.00
Telebras Pfd	90.80	89.00	90.10	89.00
Telemig	147.00	144.00	144.00	146.00
Telerj	149.00	147.00	147.00	149.00
Telesp Pfd	242.00	238.00	239.00	241.00
Unibanco	35.39	34.01	35.29	35.40
CVRD Pfd	23.55	22.85	23.44	22.90

Seoul
Composite index: 662.85 — Previous: 664.70

	High	Low	Close	Prev.
Dacom	100000	95000	97000	98500
Daewoo Heavy	5480	5000	5200	5100
Kia Motors	16300	15800	16200	16500
Korea El Pwr	28000	26700	26900	27000
Korea Exch Bk	7150	6640	6800	7040
Korea Mob Tel	530000	498000	510000	500000
LG Semicon	20500	19200	19600	19300
Pohang Iron St	42000	40000	40500	39900
Samsung Elec	46400	42600	45900	43000
Shinhan Bank	10900	10500	10600	10800

Singapore
Straits Times: 2226.28 — Previous: 2225.35

	High	Low	Close	Prev.
Asia Pac Brew	8.20	8.20	8.20	8.20
Cerebos Pac	10.60	10.50	10.50	10.60
City Devlts	13.50	13.20	13.50	13.40
Cycle Carriage	16.20	15.80	16	15.80
Dairy Farm Int*	0.79	0.78	0.79	0.79
DBS foreign	19	18.50	18.50	19
DBS Land	5.65	5.60	5.65	5.70
Far East Levlng	7.10	7.05	7.10	6.95
Fraser & Neave	13.90	13.60	13.60	13.60
HK Land*	2.82	2.80	2.81	2.81
Jard Matheson*	6.05	5.90	5.95	6.05
Jard Strategic*	3.40	3.32	3.32	3.40
Keppel	11.20	11	11.10	11.10
Keppel Bank	4.22	4.08	4.10	4.20
OCBC foreign	18.60	18.50	18.60	18.80
OS Union Bk F	11.30	11	11.10	11.30
Parkway Hdgs	5.50	5.40	5.45	5.45
Sembawang	8.05	7.95	7.95	7.95
Sing Air foreign	13.50	13.20	13.20	13.50
Sing Land	8.45	8.40	8.45	8.35
Sing Press F	27.20	26.50	26.60	27.30
Sing Tech Ind	3.68	3.64	3.64	3.70
Sing Telecomm	3.30	3.24	3.30	3.28
Straits Steam	4.90	4.86	4.88	4.92
Tat Lee Bank	3.46	3.44	3.44	3.46
Utd Industrial	1.22	1.19	1.19	1.19
Utd O'Sea Bk F	16.40	16	16.30	16.60
Wing Tai Hdgs	4.42	4.38	4.38	4.40

*: in U.S. dollars.

Stockholm
SX 16 index: 2706.86 — Previous: 2678.31

	High	Low	Close	Prev.
AGA B	107.50	105.50	107	106
ABB A	880	860	877	867
AssiDoman	181	179	180	180.50
Astra A	342	337	340	338
Atlas Copco A	169	167	168	168.50
Autoliv	324	316.50	319	318
Electrolux B	443.50	435	442	438
Ericsson B	241	235	240.50	237
Hennes B	1115	1040	1115	1040
Incentive A	511	497	509	495
Investor B	329	318	327	321
MoDo B	207	200	207	203
Nordbanken	237	231.50	234	232
Pharm/Upjohn	271	265	270	266.50
Sandvik B	186	183.50	185.50	184.50
Scania B	189.50	187	188	187.50
SCA B	145	141	144.50	141.50
S-E Banken A	74	71	74	72.50
Skandia Fors	197	191.50	195	191.50
Skanska B	315	311	313	312.50
SKF B	170.50	168	169	170.50
Sparbanken A	117.50	116	117	116.50
Stadshypotek A	188.50	188.50	188.50	188.50
Stora A	95.50	92	95	92
Sv Handles A	187.50	183	186	184
Volvo B	182	178	178.50	180

Sydney
All Ordinaries: 2404.20 — Previous: 2423.80

	High	Low	Close	Prev.
Amcor	8.10	7.96	8.10	8.06
ANZ Bkng	8.05	7.97	8.03	8.03
BHP	17.96	17.72	17.87	17.98
Boral	3.40	3.36	3.38	3.42
Brambles Ind.	22.30	22.05	22.25	22.31
CBA	12.62	12.52	12.54	12.67
CC Amatil	12.92	12.54	12.92	12.65
Coles Myer	5.03	4.96	5	5.04
Comalco	6.57	6.35	6.50	6.63
CRA	19.24	19	19.02	19.28
CSR	4.32	4.25	4.29	4.34
Fosters Brew	2.54	2.50	2.54	2.55
Gen Prop Trust	2.41	2.38	2.40	2.39
GIO Australia	3.29	3.25	3.28	3.31
Goodman Fld	1.60	1.58	1.59	1.61
ICI Australia	12.77	12.50	12.55	12.76
John Fairfax	2.83	2.81	2.82	2.83
Lend Lease	23.10	22.50	22.65	23.30
Mayne Nickless	7.85	7.75	7.80	7.85
MIM Hdgs	1.84	1.75	1.77	1.85
Nat Aust Bank	15.71	15.54	15.71	15.78
Nat Mutual Hdg	1.76	1.74	1.76	1.77
News Corp	6.79	6.62	6.68	6.82
Normandy Min	1.64	1.59	1.63	1.59
North Ltd	3.93	3.82	3.85	3.94
Pacific Dunlop	3.09	3.02	3.09	3.08
Pioneer Intl	3.70	3.64	3.70	3.68
Pub Broadcast	6.58	6.48	6.51	6.56
Qantas Airways	2.34	2.29	2.31	2.35
Santos	4.70	4.61	4.63	4.69
Southcorp	4.25	4.15	4.25	4.19
Wesfarmers	8.93	8.75	8.76	8.92
WMC	8.17	8.10	8.16	8.22
Westfield Trust	2.40	2.38	2.40	2.39
Westpac Bkng	7.35	7.18	7.34	7.30
Woodside Pet	9.28	9.05	9.10	9.35
Woolworths	3.20	3.12	3.19	3.16

Taipei
Stock Market Index: 7146.21 — Previous: 7156.96

	High	Low	Close	Prev.
Asia Cement	50.50	50	50	50
Cathay Life Ins	175	174	174	174
Chang Hwa Bk	166	164	166	165
China Steel	25.50	25.20	25.20	25.40
China Trust	52.50	52	52	52
Evergreen	52	51	51	51.50
Far East Text	35.40	34.80	34.80	34.90
First Bank	173	172	172	172
Formosa CF	42.50	41.70	41.90	41.70
Hua Nan Bk	142.50	141	141	142
Hualon Teijran	24.50	24.20	24.20	24.30
ICBC	83	82	82	82.50
President Ent	45.50	45	45.10	45.50
Taiwan Cmt	60	59.50	59.50	59.50
Tatung	52.50	51.50	52.50	51.50

Tokyo
Nikkei 225: 17796.57 — Previous: 17334.90

	High	Low	Close	Prev.
Ajinomoto	1030	976	1030	987
All Nippon Air	759	746	757	746
Asahi Bank	765	727	765	744
Asahi Chem	635	618	635	628
Asahi Glass	1050	1020	1040	1030
Bk Tokyo Mitsu	1700	1630	1700	1710
Bk Yokohama	625	615	625	625
Bridgestone	2120	2060	2120	2080
Canon	2570	2470	2570	2510
Chiba Bank	701	670	701	690
Chubu Elec	2300	2240	2280	2260
Chugoku Elec	2210	2180	2210	2190
Daiei	850	799	850	794
Daiichi Kang	1220	1150	1200	1190
Daiwa Bank	482	468	479	477
Daiwa House	1420	1320	1410	1340
Daiwa Sec	945	922	940	921
Denso	2510	2400	2500	2440
Fanuc	3420	3350	3400	3420
Fuji Bank	1210	1140	1190	1180
Fuji Photo	3540	3410	3490	3530
Fujitsu	1230	1170	1220	1190
Hitachi	1060	1010	1060	1020
Honda Motor	3240	3140	3230	3150
IBJ	1540	1470	1510	1520
IHI	462	432	462	430
Itochu	541	533	535	533
Ito-Yokado	5370	5220	5340	5330
JAL	497	481	497	485
Jusco	3230	3170	3200	3250
Kajima	698	673	698	685
Kansai Elec	2290	2220	2280	2230
Kao	1230	1190	1230	1190
Kawa Steel	289	274	285	278
KDD	7420	7100	7400	7170
Kinki Nipp Ry	722	715	722	714
Kirin Brewery	1020	985	1010	1030
Kobe Steel	212	203	212	209
Komatsu	830	801	830	809
Kubota	536	511	536	515
Kyocera	6790	6540	6620	6510
Kyushu Elec	2200	2140	2200	2180
LTCB	467	440	460	442
Marubeni	465	446	459	447
Marui	1610	1540	1590	1660
Matsu Elec Ind	1780	1730	1770	1750
Matsu Elec Wk	1060	1030	1050	1030
Mitsubishi	1090	1030	1090	1030
Mitsubishi Ch	320	309	320	312
Mitsubishi El	669	649	668	653
Mitsubishi Est	1300	1220	1280	1220
Mitsubishi Hvy	869	832	869	845
Mitsubishi Mat	915	887	908	897
Mitsubishi Tr	1160	1090	1120	1100
Mitsui	875	865	869	877
Mitsui Fudosn	1200	1100	1200	1130
Mitsui Trust	729	683	718	691
Murata Mfg	3660	3610	3610	3690
NEC	1420	1350	1420	1380
Nikko Sec	784	755	765	755
Nintendo	7650	7500	7570	7600
Nipp Credit Bk	223	212	219	218
Nipp Express	687	675	687	691
Nippon Oil	529	518	528	525
Nippon Paper	544	501	536	505
Nippon Steel	292	283	292	286
Nippon Yusen	479	464	468	463
Nissan Motor	729	690	729	700
NKK	231	223	231	223
Nomura Sec	1530	1500	1510	1500
NTT	8750a	8420a	8730a	8500a
Obayashi	673	638	673	658
Odakyu El Ry	619	610	614	613
Ono Pharm	3500	3420	3500	3520
Osaka Gas	310	300	310	303
Ricoh	1340	1300	1330	1320
Sakura Bk	669	641	664	659
Sankyo	3140	3050	3140	3110
Sanwa Bank	1340	1270	1310	1310
Sanyo Elec	490	474	490	489
Secom	6470	6420	6440	6490
Seibu Rwy	4150	3920	4150	3920
Sekisui House	1080	1030	1080	1030
Seven-Eleven	7000	6860	7000	6940
Sharp	1520	1440	1520	1460
Shimizu	735	711	735	716
Shin-etsu Ch	2170	2130	2160	2140
Shizuoka Bk	1040	1000	1040	1010
Sony	8010	7870	7990	7930
Sumitomo	885	860	883	860
Sumitomo Bk	1300	1230	1270	1280
Sumit Chem	417	401	417	402
Sumitomo Elec	1600	1580	1600	1590
Sumit Metal	257	243	256	244
Sumit Trust	881	834	870	844
Taisei	518	494	518	506
Taisho Pharm	2780	2730	2780	2750
Takeda Chem	2350	2300	2340	2340
TDK	7400	7270	7400	7370
Tohoku El Pwr	2120	2090	2120	2120
Tokai Bank	918	885	906	902
Tokio Marine	1030	999	1020	1000
Tokyo El Pwr	2420	2340	2380	2360
Tokyo Gas	305	296	305	298
Tokyu	550	535	548	539
Tonen	1220	1150	1220	1170
Toppan Print	1360	1300	1350	1300
Toray Ind	679	653	675	665
Toshiba	698	681	693	685
Toyo Seikan	2950	2670	2950	2710
Toyo Trust	785	760	785	765
Toyota Motor	3220	3160	3210	3190
Yamaichi Sec	443	433	443	447
Yamanouchi	2270	2190	2270	2190
Yasuda Fire	529	502	510	518
Yasuda Trust	357	336	349	360

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Toronto
TSE Industrials: 6046.71 — Previous: 6040.76

	High	Low	Close	Prev.
Abitibi Price	21¼	21	21.15	21.05
Alberta Energy	33.85	33	33¾	33
Alcan Alum	47.15	45.70	46.10	46.85
Anderson Expl	18¼	18.20	18.45	18.30
Bk Montreal	46.30	45.60	45.90	45.95
Bk Nova Scotia	47.30	46.35	46.40	46.85
Barrick Gold	37	36.30	36.85	36.90
BCE	67.95	66.10	66¾	65.65
BC Telecomm	29.70	29.45	29.60	29.60
Biochem Pharm	71.25	69.10	71.25	69.10
Bombardier B	25.60	25	25.10	25.20
Brascan A	30.90	30.70	30.90	30¼
Bre-x Minerals	21¾	21.35	21.70	21.40
Cameco	57.15	56.70	57	56½
CIBC	60.20	59.70	59.95	59.60
Cdn Natl Rail	54¼	54.30	54.40	54.30
Cdn Nat Res	38	37.10	37.85	37.05
Cdn Occid Pet	24.80	24.40	24.70	24.40
Cdn Pacific	37	36¼	36.60	36¼
Cominco	38¼	38¼	38.40	38
Dofasco	25.85	25.10	25.40	25¼
Domtar	12.40	12.05	12.10	12.30
Donohue A	24.60	24	24½	23.65
Du Pont Cda A	32.20	31½	31¼	31.20
Edper Group	21.10	21	21.10	21
EuroNev Mng	36.85	36.20	36.85	36
Fairfax Finl	295	293	295	293
Falconbridge	31.10	30.70	30.90	30.80
Fletcher Chall A	21.80	21¼	21.80	21.80
Franco Nevada	60.45	59.90	60	59.95
Gulf Cda Res	12¼	11.30	11.60	11.10
Imperial Oil	64.55	63.60	64	63¾
Inco	45.90	44½	44.70	45.60
IPL Energy	40.20	40	40.15	40
Laidlaw B	18.10	17.85	17.95	17.90
Loewen Group	48.60	48.20	48¼	48.65
Macmill Bldl	18.15	17.65	18	17.85
Magna Intl A	77¼	74.80	75.35	76
Methanex	13.20	12.85	13.10	12.85
Moore	28.35	27.15	27½	28.10
Newbridge Net	44.90	43.60	43.80	44
Noranda Inc	32¼	31.85	32.05	32
Norcen Energy	32¾	32.40	32.65	32.40
Nthern Telecom	94.30	91¾	93.90	92.30
Nova	12.90	12.60	12.80	12.60
Onex	23	22.95	23	22.90
Pancdn Petlm	58¼	57.15	58¼	57
Petro Cda	21¼	21.05	21.15	21.05
Placer Dome	28	27½	27.90	28.30
Poco Petlm	15¼	14.60	15.10	14½
Potash Sask	114	112	112	112
Renaissance	47	45¾	45.45	46.20
Rio Algom	32½	32	32½	32.35
Rogers Cantel B	28.45	28	28.10	28.60
Seagram Co	54.40	52.60	53.30	53.35
Shell Cda A	54½	53.35	53½	54
Stone Consold	20½	20	20.05	20.05
Suncor	62.35	61.90	62.10	62
Talisman Eny	47.15	45¾	46	46.20
Teck B	31.90	31.40	31.60	32
Teleglobe	38.40	38¼	38.30	38½
Telus	20	19.60	19.65	19.95
Thomson	28¼	27½	27.95	28.20
TorDom Bank	37.15	36.80	36.95	36¼
Transalta	16.60	15.85	16.20	16.40
TransCda Pipe	24½	24	24	24
Trimark Finl	43¼	42	43	41.65
Trizec Hahn	31.90	30.90	30.95	31.30
TVX Gold	10.70	10½	10.70	10.80
Westcoast Eny	23¼	22.90	23.10	22.80
Weston	74	72.85	73¼	73

Vienna
ATX Index: 1172.94 — Previous: 1175.21

	High	Low	Close	Prev.
Aust Airlines	1650	1630	1640	1640
Boeh-Un Goess	660	655	655	658
Bund Vers Pfd	490	480	490	490
Creditanst Pfd	429.70	420	428	425
EA-Generali	3330	3275	3275	3300
EVN	1762	1750	1760	1760
Interunfall	1490	1490	1475	1475
Lenzing	620	615	615	614
Leykam	298.80	292	297.10	294
Mayr-Meinhof	571	568	570	570
OMV	1325	1315.50	1319.90	1326
Oest Brau	802.50	795	799	799
Oest Elektriz	842	833.30	837	841
VA Tech	1719	1700	1714	1710
Wienerberger	2171	2151	2164	2175

Wellington
NZSE-40 Index: 2378.47 — Previous: 2393.25

	High	Low	Close	Prev.
Air N Zealand B	2.73	2.69	2.69	2.71
Brierly Invt	1.33	1.33	1.33	1.33
Carter Holt ord	3.34	3.32	3.34	3.34
Fernz	5.08	5.05	5.05	5.05
Fisher Paykel	5.30	5.28	5.30	5.30
FC Forest	2.25	2.20	2.21	2.25
Goodman Fder	1.78	1.76	1.77	1.76
Indep News	6.93	6.90	6.90	6.94
Lion Nathan	3.69	3.64	3.68	3.63
Nat Gas note	2.43	2.40	2.40	2.40
NZ Refining	N.T.	N.T.	N.T.	29.60
Telecom NZ	7.45	7.35	7.35	7.47
Wilson Horton	11.40	11.40	11.40	11.37

Zurich
SPI Index: 2676.67 — Previous: 2642.51

	High	Low	Close	Prev.
Adecco B	410	404	407	407
Alusuisse R	1161	1149	1151	1146
Ares-Serono B	1460	1400	1460	1445
Baloise Hdg R	2865	2800	2865	2810
ABB B	1757	1726	1756	1727
BK Vision	758	745	758	748
Bobst B	1905	1875	1905	1870
CS Holdings R	141.75	140.25	141.50	141.50
Elektrowatt B	545	538	541	539
Fischer B	1486	1477	1483	1480
HBB PC	921	915	918	919
Holderbank B	1028	1015	1026	1011
Jul. Baer Hdg B	1461	1447	1447	1446
Nestle R	1504	1486	1504	1487
Novartis R	1614	1595	1614	1586
Oerlikon R	146	143.25	145.75	146
Pargesa Hld B	1502	1490	1502	1485
PharmVisn B	695	666	690	670
Pirelli B	214.75	209	214.50	212
Roche Hdg PC	12060	11785	12020	11790
SBC R	253	249	251.50	249
Schindler B	1538	1501	1530	1520
SGS B	3220	3190	3200	3140
SMH B	967	955	965	956
Sulzer R	938	920	935	937
Swiss Reins R	1394	1379	1385	1391
Swissair R	1267	1222	1267	1233
UBS B	1195	1174	1195	1174
Valora Hdg R	275	267	275	268
Winterthur R	856	828	853	838
Zurich Assur R	383	377.50	381.50	378

The Trib Index

Closing prices.

Jan. 1, 1992 = 100.	Level	Change	% change	year to date % change
World Index	148.46	+0.64	+0.43	+12.58
Regional Indexes				
Asia/Pacific	109.64	-0.28	-0.25	-18.34
Europe	160.52	+1.58	+0.99	+15.33
N. America	169.19	+0.02	+0.01	+31.89
S. America	128.87	+1.54	+1.23	+42.49
Industrial Indexes				
Capital goods	175.04	+1.75	+1.01	+31.73
Consumer goods	163.92	+0.78	+0.48	+18.72
Energy	175.28	-0.07	-0.04	+29.24
Finance	107.97	+0.04	+0.04	-15.14
Miscellaneous	165.46	+0.39	+0.24	+21.83
Raw Materials	175.33	+1.80	+1.04	+23.65
Service	136.77	+0.59	+0.43	+13.97
Utilities	142.12	+1.29	+0.92	+11.78

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CITIC Acquires 20% Holding in China Light

Bloomberg News

HONG KONG — CITIC Pacific Ltd., China's largest investment company in Hong Kong, said Tuesday it would acquire a 20 percent stake in the territory's biggest power utility, China Light & Power Co., for 16.25 billion Hong Kong dollars ($2.1 billion).

The purchase marks the latest attempt by a Chinese company to gain more control over the British colony's important industries. More may follow as Hong Kong prepares to return to Chinese sovereignty July 1.

"CITIC and China Light may only get people thinking about what is next," said Tony Yung, the research director at Tai Fook Group Ltd.

The CITIC-China Light alliance also may speed the utility company's expansion in China as demand for electricity in Hong Kong wanes. Hong Kong's shift away from such manufacturing industries as textiles means that China Light can now produce 50 percent more electricity than it can sell in this city of 6.3 million people, but the power industry is booming across much of the rest of Asia.

For CITIC, China Light brings expertise in an industry poised for growth in China.

"They could join hands in future infrastructure projects in China," said Bee Lim, an analyst at Asia Equity Ltd.

CITIC Pacific said it had agreed to buy about 500 million new shares that China Light is offering in a two-part sale at 32.66 dollars each. The new shares are equal to 25 percent of China Light's shares outstanding. The sale will mean CITIC will end up with 20 percent of China Light.

The utility company's shares ended the day unchanged at 33.70 dollars. CITIC Pacific shares were unchanged at 39.50.

The purchase gives China more control over another key Hong Kong company.

After the share sale, CITIC said, China Light will appoint CITIC Pacific's chairman, Larry Yung, to its board. CITIC said it considered its interest in China Light "a long-term investment" and would not sell the shares for at least three years. It said it intended to work with China Light to secure power projects in China and elsewhere. In an earlier sign of its plan to increase control over the Hong Kong economy, CITIC last year broke a 48-year British hold on Hong Kong's aviation industry by increasing its stake in Cathay Pacific Airways Ltd.

Some investors are speculating that Hong Kong Telecommunications Ltd., controlled by London-based Cable & Wireless PLC, will be its next objective. CITIC already owns 8 percent of Hong Kong Telecom, and investors have speculated for months that the China-backed company will raise its stake.

Shares in Hong Kong Telecom closed at 13.20, down 0.45.

CITIC Pacific may have been attracted to China Light by its relatively low share price. The stock fell 8.4 percent last year, compared with a 21 percent rise in the Hang Seng Index, and the company's profit fell 15 percent in the year that ended in September, to 4.84 billion dollars, its first-ever profit decline.

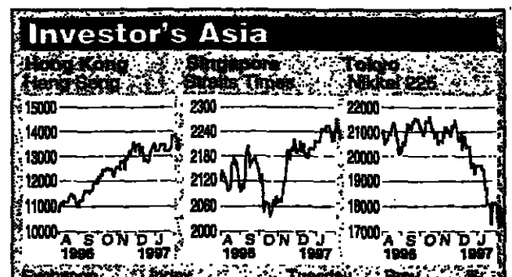
"It's just another example of CITIC taking a large investment in a Hong Kong company just for the sake of having a China company doing it," said Kent Rossiter, a salesman at Nikko Securities. Some analysts saw CITIC's $815 million investment in April 1996 in Cathay Pacific Airways, Hong Kong's main airline, as an example of the Chinese government forcing CITIC to increase its stake in a strategic Hong Kong industry. They, too, said Hong Kong Telecom would be next.

CITIC managers say Beijing has no influence over their corporate strategy of expanding in China's infrastructure, aviation and telecommunications industries. They underscored that independence last month by buying a 15 percent stake in the six-year-old company from its parent, China International Trust & Investment Corp., China's largest investment company.

But a cash-only purchase of China Light would pose a financial challenge for CITIC, as the utility company's market value is close to CITIC Pacific's 84 billion dollars. Some traders speculated that CITIC may pay for the purchase in part with shares.

China Light is close to securing financing to start building a $2.3 billion coal-fired power plant in northern China this year and wants to build a gas-fired power plant across the border in Shenzhen.

Investor's Asia



Exchange	Index	Tuesday Close	Prev. Close	% Change
Hong Kong	Hang Seng	13,402.28	13,294.90	+0.80
Singapore	Straits Times	2,226.30	2,225.35	+0.04
Sydney	All Ordinaries	2,404.20	2,423.00	-0.78
Tokyo	Nikkei 225	17,796.57	17,334.90	+2.66
Kuala Lumpur	Composite	1,228.89	1,239.35	-0.84
Bangkok	SET	845.63	840.42	+0.62
Seoul	Composite Index	682.85	684.76	-0.28
Taipei	Stock Market Index	7,146.21	7,156.99	-0.15
Manila	PSE	3,541.89	3,523.10	+0.67
Jakarta	Composite Index	689.97	684.98	+0.73
Wellington	NZSE-40	2,378.47	2,398.25	-0.82
Bombay	Sensitive Index	3,604.20	3,582.74	+1.16

Source: Telekurs International Herald Tribune

Trading-Tax Curb Buoys Tokyo Stocks

AFX News

TOKYO — Share prices rose sharply Tuesday after Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto announced plans to abolish a tax on share trading by 2001 as part of a government overhaul of the financial system.

"With regard to liberalization of commissions and the abolition of the securities transaction tax, I have handed the comprehensive list of reforms of the financial system to the finance minister," Mr. Hashimoto told the budget committee of the Japanese Parliament's lower house.

"By taking orderly steps," he said, he hoped to implement the measures by 2001 "at the latest."

Brokers said sentiment on the Tokyo stock exchange was buoyed by Mr. Hashimoto's pledge to abolish the transaction tax, currently 0.21 percent of a trade's value.

The Nikkei 225 index closed with a gain of 461.67 points, or 2.7 percent, at 17,796.57 after recovering from a low for the day of 17,195.25.

"The market entered a sharp recovery after Hashimoto's remarks," a broker at Daiwa Securities who asked not to be identified by name said.

"This kind of remark on the securities transaction tax is most favored by market participants, and the market is reacting positively."

But Harushige Kobayashi at Yamaichi Securities said that although corporate investors had bought blue-chips shares, "the market is still prone to volatile movement."

Beijing-Paris Space Accord

Agence France-Presse

BEIJING — China and France initialed a framework agreement Tuesday allowing for cooperation in the transfer of technology for space travel.

The agreement was initialed in the presence of France's minister of posts, telecommunications and space, Francois Fillon, and the president of China's State Commission for Science and Technology, Song Jian.

The accord "provides the basis for a true strategic partnership among France, Europe and China," Mr. Fillon said.

The accord, details of which were not made public, will provide for a transfer of technology for space travel, including manned flights, the French minister said. Its final signing is expected to take place in May during a planned visit to China by President Jacques Chirac.

Very briefly:

• **Australia's** budget deficit will swell by 3 billion dollars ($2.3 billion), to 8.5 billion dollars, in the year ending June 30, because of lower-than-expected corporate tax revenue, a declining inflation rate and higher unemployment, Peter Costello, the nation's treasurer, said.

• **Thailand** said it had a budget deficit of 53.7 billion baht ($2.08 billion) in the fourth quarter of 1996.

• **Jardine International Motor Holdings Ltd.** said Simon Keswick, a member of the company's founding family, would step down as chairman effective Saturday and be succeeded by Anthony Nightingale, who is chairman of Jardine Pacific Ltd.; Richard Lee will retire as chief executive and be succeeded by Peter Ward, until recently chairman at Cunard Line.

• **Japan's** Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications said it planned to abolish restrictions on foreign investment in cable-television ventures.

• **Hitachi Tool Engineering Ltd.** will merge Oct. 1 with **Uozu Manufacturing Co.** and two smaller industrial-tool makers, **Yoneda Tool Works Ltd.** and a subsidiary, **Yoneda Kyushu Ltd.** All four companies are affiliates of **Hitachi Metals Ltd.**

Bloomberg

MAGAZINE: *National Geographic Branches Out to Explore the Lucrative Territory of Television*

Continued from Page 13

expanding multimedia factory that is producing maps, compact disks, the National Geographic Web site and television programs.

Business executives such as Mr. Murphy speak proudly about the magazine's "brand equity," the halo of trustworthiness that may make consumers more likely to buy other products sporting the National Geographic imprimatur. The magazine, in fact, landed at the top of a recent Equitrends Inc. survey of perceived quality among media organizations.

"For an organization like this, we're moving pretty rapidly," Mr. Murphy said. "If this were the business world, I doubt people would think this is rapid, but with an institution like this, change usually comes slowly, and change is jarring."

Staffers at the magazine worry that the new exuberance for merchandising the National Geographic "brand equity" creates an inevitable conflict, forcing the organization to choose between its capitalist appetites and its editorial integrity.

"There's a feeding frenzy to exploit our quality," one staff member said. "They want to suck everything out of our name that they can. It's a shortsighted policy that says, 'Get the stuff out there while people still trust us.'"

He added: "My problem is the way they look at content. Who is controlling the editorial process? Are the administrators and the marketers and the salesmen going to be allowed to control how we create things around here, or is it the other way around?"

Mr. Grosvenor, who remains chairman of the society's board of trustees, responded that it was possible for the business and editorial sides to peacefully coexist, indeed to thrive.

"We all have to roll with the times," he said. "I'm sure there was a time back in the dark ages, 25 years ago, when people thought we were crazy to get into TV documentaries. Well, we demonstrated what we can do with TV, and we'll prove it again" with other ventures.

As a whole, the society is in enviable financial shape. In 1995, the last year for which public records are available, it generated "excess" revenue (the equivalent of profit) of $73.8 million. While that is a relatively small return on its $422.6 million in revenue, the society had $509 million socked away in highly liquid securities and reported total assets of $729.3 million.

Unlike chief executives in private enterprise, Mr. Murphy does not have to be concerned about keeping his stock price up or paying dividends. His overall goal, he said, is to increase the amount of money the society gives each year to its research, exploration and education programs, currently about $14 million. That, he said, requires both cutting costs and generating revenue.

Finally, Mr. Murphy said the society's three magazines — which accounted for about half of its revenue last year — have not even begun to tap the vast non-English-speaking world. There is only a Japanese-language edition of National Geographic, with a Spanish-language version possible by year-end.

U.S.-China Talks On Textiles Start

Reuters

BEIJING — U.S. and Chinese officials made a productive start Tuesday in textile trade talks that are the last chance to reach a deal before a Friday deadline, said the top U.S. negotiator, Rita Hayes. The officials met for the first time in three days of talks.

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The Associated Press.

NYSE

Tuesday's 4 p.m. Close

(Continued)

MULTILINGUALISM IN EUROPE

THE MORE, THE MERRIER

The Europe of the future belongs ineluctably to the polyglots.

The French consul visiting the agricultural show in Valencia, Spain, was puzzled. Why were so many visitors flocking to the Dutch stand and so few taking a look at the equally splendid irrigation equipment on display at his own country's exhibition space?

"He quickly discovered the reason when he popped across to examine the Netherlands' offering more closely," says Jean-Marcel Lauginie, president of a French-based association called APFA (Actions pour Promouvoir le Français des Affaires). "The French exhibitors had labelled everything in English. Their Dutch competitors had provided comprehensive information in the regional Valencian tongue as well as in Castilian Spanish."

As Europe moves toward unity, what does the future hold for the rich diversity of languages spoken by its many peoples?

On one level, English continues to tighten its grip as the lingua franca of international meetings. At the other end of the scale, regions within European nations are asserting their local identities and languages. Between the two, Europe's biggest countries strive for formal recognition of their national tongues within the European Union.

Germany, for instance, recruited professional lobbyists when it wanted to secure greater recognition for the German language in the work of the EU institutions. The United Kingdom disseminates information and entertainment in English overseas through the British Council and the BBC's World Service radio programs.

Language experts from Spain (and Latin America) have been cooperating on a project to harmonize Spanish usage, and the Instituto Cervantes promotes the learning of Spanish around the world.

"Europe is a multilingual society, and we have to learn to live and work in that dimension," says Gordon Shenton, dean of academic programs at the Lyon Graduate Business School. "English is important, but it is certainly not enough. For example, German is recovering influence in Central and Eastern Europe," he adds.

At the same time, many of Europe's regions are asserting a rediscovered pride in their local cultures, traditions and languages, and several are pressing for greater local autonomy. Catalan, Gaelic and Sardu are some examples.

European political trends and the burgeoning of information technologies that make it economically feasible to communicate and publish for smaller audiences and readerships are two of the main factors contributing to such movements.

Michael Rowe

EXPOLANGUES FETES 15TH ANNIVERSARY

Expolangues, the yearly language fair, will be celebrating its 15th year of spreading the good word in many tongues at its 1997 session, to be held from Jan. 29 to Feb. 2 at the Grande Halle de la Villette in Paris.

In addition to 350 stands representing language schools, universities, laboratories, translation and interpretation companies, computer companies, national governments, tourism offices, travel agencies, cultural centers and publishers, Expolangues will be spotlighting the linguistic, cultural and geographic diversity of this year's guest country, Canada. The 80 languages spoken in the country include 53 little-known native languages such as Inuktitut, Naskapi, Cri, Atikamekw and Montagnais. A nation with two official languages, English and French, Canada is a world leader in methodologies and technologies for the teaching and translation of languages.

Culture will play a big role at the trade fair, whose International Festival of Cultures will feature 25 performances of music and dance. Some 100 conferences will be held, on topics ranging from multimedia to translation.

Multimedia technologies will be on display in an 800-square-meter (957-square-yard) space. Some 50 exhibitors, including software designers and manufacturers, will present their language-learning methods. In addition, a Cybercafé with 10 multimedia posts will allow visitors to explore language courses on the Internet with experts on the subject (http://expolangues.reed-oip.fr).

Expolangues will be open to trade professionals on Jan. 29 from 9:30 A.M. to 9 P.M. and to the general public Jan. 30 to Feb. 1 from 10 A.M. to 7 P.M. and on Feb. 2 from 10 A.M. to 6 P.M. Some 35,000 visitors are expected to come from 20 countries, representing 50 languages.

Heidi Ellison

LEARNING AL FRESCO

It may be easier to study at the seaside than in a classroom.

Learning a new language is hard work. So choosing a course in a place that mixes a relaxing, sun-drenched setting with top-quality instruction can make practical sense as well as being more fun.

Mean-minded bosses and jealous partners may take a different view, but language schools are happily cashing in by offering language teaching at beautifully situated centers throughout Europe's Mediterranean sunbelt. These reach from the Costa del Sol in Spain through the Côte d'Azur in France to the scented hillsides of Italy and the ancient island state of Malta.

"One of our most recent developments is the launch of a Spanish-language program for retired people who want to do something active with their lives," says marketing director Bob Burger at the Málaga-based Malaca Instituto, in the southern Spanish region of Andalusía. "We are convinced that this type of product will become ever more popular as European integration continues and well-off sections of the continent's growing pensioner population choose to travel more and to live in different countries," he explains.

Catering to all tastes

Andalusía offers a wealth of beautifully situated Spanish language schools, catering to all tastes and ranging from summer classes for high school students to eyeball-to-eyeball confrontations for linguistically challenged executives.

For example, the Estudio Internacional Sampere runs a branch in the small coastal town of El Puerto de Santa María, in the very center of the dazzling Bay of Cádiz. Ceran Lingua has franchised a center called "Mirador de la Sierra." It operates just down the road from the historic Alhambra Palace in Granada.

Warm, friendly setting

Malta is making a special bid to attract English-language students, and now boasts a large number of schools specializing in teaching English. The island has historic connections with Britain (indeed, people still drive on the left), and English is one of the official languages. The government's skillfully deployed advertising efforts elegantly suggest (without quite saying it) that Malta is both a warmer and a more friendly place to study the language than Britain itself.

M.R.

SMALL BUSINESSES JOIN GLOBAL RANKS

Language skills are de rigeur for everyone.

Providing language instruction for executives has long constituted a profitable source of income for language schools, chambers of commerce and other business centers. Several trends are now affecting the demand for such services and the way they are delivered.

One of these is the growing need for even small businesses to internationalize in order to survive and prosper. Another is the new demand for business-linked language instruction in Eastern Europe. A third is the call for instruction in rare or non-European languages as new markets continue to emerge around the world. At the same time, advances in communications technology make it increasingly feasible to exploit distance-learning techniques.

"Businesses that send their executives to our language programs routinely expect us to perform miracles in the space of a two-week course," says René Bastin, managing director of Ceran Lingua International in Belgium. "Largely, this is because decisions to post managers abroad are increasingly made at the last minute and on a short-term basis. To reply to this demand, we have tailored our courses to provide managers with concrete practical help for survival in the environment to which they are moving."

Some companies are nonetheless adopting a structured approach to language learning as part of a bid to develop cross-cultural management skills.

"To achieve success in this area, we need to understand how cultural differences interact with varying personal characteristics," says Gilles Spony, who is preparing a dissertation on this subject at Cranfield Business School in Britain.

One example is provided by British Petroleum (BP), which has created a training package for personnel posted to its Algerian affiliate (BP Exploration's Algeria Asset). "The package includes French lessons on a one-to-one and small-group basis, together with intensive one-and-a-half-day cultural briefings," says Rupert Watts of London-based Language Solutions, which worked with BP to set up the project.

M.R.

THE MULTIMEDIA METHOD

Multimedia has opened up new horizons for language learning, making possible interactive study at home through the use of CD-ROMS or the Internet. The advantages over traditional book learning are that interactive learning can provide immediate audio response and can be updated much faster than books. It is available in any location, no matter how geographically remote, where a wide variety of language courses might not be. In addition, looking up the meaning of a word becomes child's play with dictionaries on CD-ROM.

While the potential of the Internet for language teaching is great, the content may not yet live up to expectations. Some courses are very basic, and many Web sites that claim to be teaching tools are actually selling other language training products.

Web sites that are worth checking out are those of International Language Development (http://www.ild.com/index2.shtml), which offers 20-lesson interactive courses in French, Spanish, German, Japanese, Korean and Russian, and Fortran Language Systems (http://www.fact-comm.co.jp/fortran/) for Japanese. Web searches can be conducted through the Maricopa Center for Learning and Instruction (http://hakatai.mcli.dist.maricopa.edu/tl/index.html). Expolangues, the annual Paris language fair, also has a Web site (http://expolangues.reed-oip.fr).

H.E.

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WRITERS: *Heidi Ellison and Michael Rowe, both based in Paris.*
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Herald Tribune
SPORTS

WORLD ROUNDUP

Australia's on Top

CRICKET Australia rose to the top of the cricketing world Tuesday after clinching a series against the West Indies.

Australia's victory by an innings and 183 runs in Adelaide to lead 3-1 in the five-test rubber put the team alone at the top of the Wisden world championship standings. Before, Australia shared the lead with South Africa and the West Indies.

The championship, devised by Wisden Cricketers' Almanac, is unofficial, but South Africa intends to propose at the meeting of the International Cricket Council in June that an official championship based on the Wisden system should be instituted. *(Reuters)*

Zeman Out, Zoff In

SOCCER Dino Zoff will take over as coach of Italy's Lazio for the rest of the season. Zdenek Zeman was fired Monday after the club's second consecutive home defeat.

Zoff, 54, the goalie for Italy's 1982 World Cup victory, coached Lazio from 1990 to 1994, when he was named president. Zeman had been in charge since the 1994-95 season. Zoff promised that another coach would take over next season.

He is now officially Lazio's president, coach, board member and trainer of the club's goalkeepers. *(Reuters)*

Nascar Figure Has Cancer

AUTO RACING Rick Hendrick, the Charlotte, North Carolina, car dealer and Nascar team owner who has been indicted on charges related to the American Honda corruption scandal, has a rare and life-threatening form of leukemia.

Hendrick, 47, discovered he had chronic myelogenous leukemia, a form of bone-marrow cancer, on Nov. 18 — two weeks before his indictment, his lawyers said Monday.

Hendrick, whose drivers won Winston Cup championships the last two years, pleaded not guilty Dec. 20 to a 15-count federal indictment that accused him of building his $2.2 billion car-dealing empire by bribing American Honda executives. *(AP)*

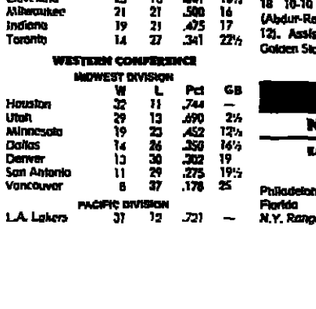
Baiul Takes the Pledge

SKATING The Olympic figure skating champion Oksana Baiul does not have a drinking problem and does not plan to drive under the influence again, her attorneys say.

During a brief appearance Monday in Superior Court in West Hartford, Connecticut, Baiul applied for admission to an alcohol education program in hopes of having a drunken driving charge against her dropped.

She regrets her conduct, realizes she made a mistake and is "determined to never let it happen again," Paul Collins, one of her lawyers, said after the hearing.

Baiul did not enter a plea and is not required to enter one before the judge rules on her application for admission into the education program. *(AP)*



Bob Child/The Associated Press

Baiul being escorted from court by sheriff's deputies.

For the Age of the Hot Dog Athlete, Blame Television

Vince Lombardi Wouldn't Get It

By Ian Thomsen
International Herald Tribune

LONDON — The moral of Green Bay's victory had nothing to do with Vince Lombardi, even though the coach's name was on the Super Bowl trophy awarded to his former team.

The moral was that America is a country of TV addicts, and, surprisingly, the Super Bowl is better for it.

The late, militaristic Lombardi of three decades ago would not have understood Green Bay's 35-21 victory over New England on Sunday. What would he have made of Desmond Howard slowing down at the end of his game-breaking 99-yard touchdown return for no greater purpose than to show off? Every time Howard gained more than a dozen yards he was hopping up to berate his opponents.

In his day Lombardi would not have put up with it. On Sunday, Howard was rewarded for it — he was voted the Most Valuable Player.

There's no sense beating up on Howard for his behavior — most of the players on both teams were the same. Part of it can be seen, promisingly, as a liberation of American culture, that anyone of any color now feels free to express himself. It wasn't that way not so long ago; certainly not in Lombardi's time.

The great vehicle for this change — limited to the artificial world of billion-dollar American sport — is undoubtedly television. If this was one of the most exciting, electric Super Bowls, it was because the game has been gilded by TV to draw the largest possible audience. Whenever the defenses have grown too strong in American football and the TV ratings have suffered as a result, the National Football League has been quick to alter the rules fractionally, creating just enough room to break the most exciting players free. The NFL reacts to the larger TV audience as seriously as politicians treat the pre-election polls. The business of each game — American football and politics — is all about television.

The addiction is just beginning to spread around the world. You are beginning to see soccer players pulling their shirts overhead or forming a conga line on their hands and knees after scoring a goal.

If that kind of thing didn't used to happen, it's because soccer players didn't used to think about camera close-ups and video highlights replayed on newscast after newscast.

Still, they are innocents compared with the hams that occupied America's biggest stage Sunday night. Watch any sport (other than boxing) in any other country and notice how most athletes react when they realize the camera is aimed at them. They pretend not to notice.

It used to be like that in America, but it isn't any more. When the camera's red light flashed on along the Superdome sidelines, almost every player in view turned his back on the field and started pointing at himself. Look at me. Here I am.

The pregame introductions were incredible. Every player had his own schtick. The typical form of acknowledgement used to be a nod of the head, a slight wave to the crowd. It has been replaced by arms spread out, palms up.

It can all be traced back to Muhammad Ali's authentic bravado, and just a few years ago fans could afford to boo his one or two poor mimics who leaped up self-congratulatingly after being tackled. To boo them now would mean booing most of the players on both teams.

Even if they believe such acts are a selfish example for the millions of children watching and imitating at home, the coaches feel they can't stop it, not if they want to succeed.

Take Andre Rison — he was released by one disciplinarian NFL coach this season because his antics didn't seem to fit the team. The Packers thought about him for a long minute before handing him a uniform that seems to blur, he runs so fast. It turned out to be the right decision when Rison caught a long pass on Green Bay's second play, even if he did duckwalk into the end zone.

All of a sudden Green Bay had a 10-0 lead and you could just see it: Everybody on their team was trying to come up with the big play for video perpetuity.

In Super Bowls such early leads usually turn into enormous victories. The Patriots turned the deficit to their advantage with a screen pass — a little hesitation here, a pause there, as the Packers went flying by out of the picture. It seemed as if the Packers were more dizzied, more vulnerable because of their good start. By the end of the first quarter the Patriots had seized a 14-10 lead.

American fans who don't like the between-plays antics have learned to ignore them. Outrageous people were making outrageous, spectacular plays.

Neither side was conservative, mainly because the TV-influenced rules don't necessarily reward the running, grinding offenses of Lombardi's day. Why waste a play on a short gain when a 30-yard pass is easier than ever to complete?

The pressures were converted into positive energy. The game was played in the frenzy of an action movie. Wherever you live in the world, whatever you like to watch, a similar movement will be coming to your sport soon. The power of TV is hypnotic and inescapable.

Late in the Super Bowl, in between plays, you could hear the crowd cheering as if another big pass had been caught. But nothing like that was going on. Then you realized: They were reacting to images on the giant screens in the Superdome. All of that money they paid for their tickets, packed inside the stadium where everyone in America wanted to be that night, and they were unified by a TV set. The stadium was their living room.

The Associated Press

Riding in a bus named Titletown, the Green Bay Packers returned home after their victory in the Super Bowl.

Tim Zielenbach/Agence France-Presse

Holmgren brings home the trophy.

Now, the Hard Part for the Packers

By Timothy W. Smith
New York Times Service

NEW ORLEANS — As National Football League champions, the Packers took the Vince Lombardi Trophy back to Green Bay. Now they have to find a way to keep it.

"I think one of our goals when we first came to Green Bay was to develop a consistent playoff-caliber team," Holmgren said Monday. "Our organization is very sound. Bob Harlan as president of the Packers gives Ron and myself everything that a coach and general manager can ask for. Ron Wolf just signed a new extension or is in the process of signing a new extension. We'll be very, very solid at the top."

But the Packers have a lot of work to do if they want to be as dominant as San Francisco and Dallas have been in the 1990s. They must manage the salary cap, keep their own free agents while attracting those from other teams and maintain continuity on the coaching staff.

If the offensive coordinator Sherman Lewis leaves to take a head-coaching job, the Packers will lose a shrewd architect of game plans and play calling.

Wolf, meanwhile, is one of the most knowledgeable general managers in the game and an astute judge of talent. The Packers will have to rely on him to replace the aging defensive stars: free safety Eugene Robinson (a 12-year veteran) and defensive ends Sean Jones (13 years) and Reggie White (12 years).

Wolf is also working on a contract extension for quarterback Brett Favre. There have been reports that Favre, the league's two-time most valuable player, could command a signing bonus in excess of $12 million. But if they sign Favre to a huge contract, the Packers won't be able go shopping for expensive free agents the way that Dallas and San Francisco did to keep their championship edge.

That means it will be harder for Green Bay to stay at the top. And having won a Super Bowl, their top free agents — defensive tackle Gilbert Brown, linebacker Wayne Simmons, receiver Desmond Howard (the MVP in the Super Bowl), kicker Chris Jacke, center Frank Winters, Jones and running back Dorsey Levens — are going to have to be persuaded that they are better off in Green Bay with less money than they can get some place else.

In a sense the easy part, winning the championship, is behind the Packers. Now, the hard part, keeping it, has only begun.

Parcells Is In NFL's Hands

New York Times Service

NEW ORLEANS — The Super Bowl is over, but the dispute between Bill Parcells and the New England Patriots goes on.

The National Football League commissioner, Paul Tagliabue, said Monday he would mediate a dispute between the two parties to determine whether Parcells is free to leave the Patriots and, if he does, what compensation the Patriots are entitled to.

Tagliabue listened to the warring parties Tuesday and may make a decision as early as Wednesday or Thursday. The New York Jets, who want to put Parcells in charge of their beleaguered franchise, are eagerly awaiting Tagliabue's ruling.

Meeting of Minds (and Hearts?) at Africa-Europe Friendly

Vantage Point / ROB HUGHES

International Herald Tribune

LONDON — "Killer bees stop play!"

I guess a sports writer subconsciously longs for a line to sting the readers into attention. Truth is better than fiction, and you couldn't make up what happened in Harare on Sunday.

It was almost halftime in an African Nations Cup qualifier between Zimbabwe and Ghana when Tim Grant, a Ghanian striker, noticed what he took to be a swarm of flies coming toward the pitch.

"Next thing I see," recalls Grant, "is the Zimbabwe players face down on the ground. I'm thinking, what's going on? I hear the others shout, 'Get down, killer bees!' — and this cloud of them passes right over us."

Nobody got hurt. The linesmen covered their faces with their flags, the referee eventually came back out of the hut to which he had fled, the spectators settled down and the match finished without a goal.

Kim Grant, born Ghanaian but very much a Londoner these days, flew back to England on the same plane as Bruce Grobbelaar, the veteran Zimbabwe goalie who was given 48-hour leave from Winchester Crown Court, where he denies fixing matches for a Malaysian betting syndicate.

Grobbelaar, a hero in Africa cast as a villain in England, swears he has been set up by a former Zimbabwe business partner; a sting of another kind. He put on his usual display of goalkeeping acrobatics laced with showmanship for the Harare crowd of 50,000, and expects to be as free as the birds and the bees for Zimbabwe's next Nations Cup encounter in Angola on Feb. 8.

Had Grobbelaar been available for midweek games, he might have figured in a historic match in Lisbon on Wednesday, when an African side plays a friendly against Europe.

This all-star game in the Stadium of Light kicks off soccer's contribution to the European Year Against Racism. It is timely, and necessary.

During the next 10 days, youths from four European nations — France, Greece, Portugal and Spain — contest the Meridian Cup, with teams representing Ghana, Guinea, Ivory Coast and Nigeria.

The idea is to foster harmony, though few of the African players will be innocents abroad. The skills of Africa are free-ranging, with a spontaneity sometimes systematically coached out of boys in Europe. Where the car drives out street soccer, and where computer games are more popular than ball games, so-called natural talents are lost. But in Africa, in Latin America and Asia, a ball (or something resembling one) can still be a child's fascination.

Children will spend endless hours under the sun playing with it, obsessed with it, learning to make it obey their touch.

Very early in adolescence, these gifts will be spotted by scouts and sold to rich clubs in Europe. The kids, of course, come to the money like bees to honey.

Some survive the transition. A few, like George Weah, learn the value of their ability. Weah, World Footballer of the Year in 1995, migrated from Liberia to France to Italy.

He became the symbol of African potency in international sport. He plays for A. C. Milan, the highest payer in the business, and at 31 he sometimes plays with the wonder of a child.

Alas, Weah will not be in Lisbon on Wednesday. He is injured and, worse, tainted. The last time he played in Portugal, in a UEFA Champions League match against Porto in November, he violently butted Jorge Costa in the face.

Weah's people insist it was a crime of passion, provoked by Costa's malice in fouling him and racially taunting him. UEFA, with the broken nose of Costa as evidence, had no option, and banned Weah from six European matches.

Costa has threatened legal reprisal unless Weah retracts the allegation of bigotry. African politicians make racist propaganda of their own, accusing UEFA of using white man's law against the black African.

So it will take a concerted effort under the Lisbon lights on Wednesday. Lennart Johansson and Issa Hayatou, presidents of European and African soccer, respectively, are old friends potentially divided in the quest to become FIFA's next leader.

Johansson and Hayatou had an almost father-son perception of the future, a tacit agreement that the older Swede would stand as FIFA president from 1998 to 2002, and Hayatou a credible successor.

But the politics of FIFA are bedeviled by intrigue. Johansson made a potentially ruinous statement in a Swedish newspaper interview, which quoted him as referring to Africans as "darkies." Johansson apologized unconditionally, but it will stick with him.

No man is likely to be FIFA president without a good number of votes from the 51 African member countries. Wednesday will be a time to observe the ambiance off the pitch as well as on it — a meeting of African and European minds.

Hayatou, I am certain, will be statesmanlike and friendly. Johansson will be inwardly embarrassed, but big enough to hold out his hand to any who will take it.

SCOREBOARD

BASKETBALL

NBA STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

ATLANTIC DIVISION

	W	L	Pct	GB
Miami	31	12	.721	—
New York	30	13	.698	1
Washington	21	21	.500	9½
Orlando	19	19	.500	9½
New Jersey	11	29	.275	18½
Boston	9	30	.231	20
Philadelphia	9	33	.214	21½
CENTRAL DIVISION				
Chicago	37	5	.881	—
Detroit	30	11	.732	6½
Atlanta	28	12	.700	8
Charlotte	24	18	.571	13
Cleveland	23	18	.561	13½
Milwaukee	21	21	.500	16
Indiana	19	21	.475	17
Toronto	14	27	.341	22½
WESTERN CONFERENCE				
MIDWEST DIVISION				
Houston	32	11	.744	—
Utah	29	13	.690	2½
Minnesota	19	23	.452	12½
Dallas	14	26	.350	16½
Denver	13	30	.302	19
San Antonio	11	29	.275	19½
Vancouver	8	37	.178	25
PACIFIC DIVISION				
L.A. Lakers	37	12	.721	—
Seattle	30	13	.698	1
Portland	25	18	.581	6
Sacramento	18	25	.419	13
Golden State	17	25	.405	13½
L.A. Clippers	16	24	.400	13½
Phoenix	15	28	.349	16

MONDAY'S RESULTS

Phoenix	19	26	18	34— 97
Miami	32	29	28	36—125

P: Meyer 7-11 2-2 18, Chapman 6-9 1-3 14; M: Hardaway 7-13 2-2 21, Mourning 8-12 4-5 20. Rebounds—Phoenix 41 (Ceballos, Manning 7), Miami 35 (Mourning 7). Assists—Phoenix 21 (Johnson 7), Miami 33 (Hardaway 10).

Vancouver	22	24	24	27— 97
Golden State	27	25	33	37—122

V: Abdur-Rahim 7-15 9-10 23, Reeves 4-7 3-4 11; G.S.: Sprewell 10-16 11-11 33, Smith 10-18 10-10 30. Rebounds—Vancouver 37 (Abdur-Rahim 8), Golden State 47 (Smith 12). Assists—Vancouver 24 (Anthony 6), Golden State 31 (Sprewell 11).

HOCKEY

NHL STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

ATLANTIC DIVISION

	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
Philadelphia	27	14	7	61	153	120
Florida	24	14	10	58	138	113
N.Y. Rangers	25	20	7	57	178	145
New Jersey	24	17	5	53	121	115
Washington	20	24	5	45	130	136
Tampa Bay	18	23	6	42	136	149
N.Y. Islanders	16	23	9	41	133	142
NORTHEAST DIVISION						
Pittsburgh	27	17	5	59	180	151
Buffalo	25	19	5	55	141	131
Hartford	20	21	7	47	140	152
Montreal	18	24	8	44	157	177
Boston	18	24	6	42	140	170
Ottawa	15	22	9	39	127	137
WESTERN CONFERENCE						
CENTRAL DIVISION						
	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
Dallas	28	17	4	60	150	119
Detroit	22	16	9	53	144	108
St. Louis	23	23	4	50	150	159
Phoenix	21	23	4	46	135	153
Chicago	18	26	8	44	130	139
Toronto	19	31	0	38	149	176
PACIFIC DIVISION						
	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
Colorado	30	12	8	68	170	117
Edmonton	23	22	5	51	160	150
Vancouver	23	23	7	48	155	160
Anaheim	19	23	6	44	137	144
Calgary	17	25	6	40	119	142
Los Angeles	17	26	6	40	131	169
San Jose	17	25	5	39	123	151

MONDAY'S RESULTS

Tampa Bay	2	1	0—3
Ottawa	1	2	2—5

First Period: T-Burr 11 (Selivanov, Cullen). 2, T-Burr 12 (Cullen, Selivanov) 3, O-Yashin 21 (Lapointeen) (pp). Second Period: T-Hamrlik 7 (Bannister, Selivanov) (pp). 5, O-Yashin 22 (Dackell, Rhodes) 6, O-, Chorske 5 (Laukkanen, Alfredsson) Third Period: O-Cunneyworth 8 (Alfredsson, Zhollok) 8, O-Alfredsson 18 (Bonk, Cunneyworth) Shots on goal: T- 11-8-8—27. O- 12-13-6—31. Goalies: T-Tabaracci. O-Rhodes.

Chicago	0	0	2—2
N.Y. Rangers	0	1	0—1

First Period: None. Second Period: New York, Graves 17 (Messier, Beukeboom) Third Period: C-Amonte 31 (Zhamnov). 3, C-, Dahlen 9 (Amonte, Zhamnov) Shots on goal: C- 13-9-10—32. New York 7-16-14—37. Goalies: C-Hackett. New York, Richter.

Colorado	0	2	3—5
Toronto	0	2	0—2

First Period: None. Second Period: C-Foote 1 (Yelle, Ricci) 2, T-Murphy 5 (Sundin, Modin) 3, T-Nedved 2 (Warriner, Murphy) 4, C-Ozolinsh 16 (Kamensky, Lemieux) (pp). Third Period: C-Deadmarsh 20, 6, C-Klemm 6 (Kamensky, Billington) 7, C-Lemieux 1 (Lefebvre, Lacroix) Shots on goal: C- 11-17-9—37. T- 10-15-9—34. Goalies: C-Billington. T-Potvin.

Anaheim	0	2	2—4
St. Louis	0	1	0—1

First Period: None. Second Period: A-Selanne 27 (Rucchin, Dollas) 2. S.L.-Hull 26 (Courtnall, Tuzzeon) 2. A-Mironov 8 (Rucchin, Korlyo) Third Period: A-Selanne 28 (Von Impe, Rucchin) (pp). 5, A-S.Pronger 2 (Selanne) Shots on goal: A- 7-8-6—21. S.L.- 10-15-14—39. Goalies: A-Hebert. S.L.-Fuhr.

Los Angeles	1	0	1—2
Dallas	1	5	1—7

First Period: L.A.-Stevens 9 (Yachmenev, Perreault). 2, D-Modano 20 (Sydor, Nieuwendyk) (pp). Second Period: D-Hatcher 3 (Verbeek). 4, D-, Hogue 12 (Lehtinen, Modano) 5, D-Modano 21 (Nieuwendyk, Sydor) (pp). 6, D-Verbeek 10 (Gilchrist, Marshall) 7, D-Langenbrunner 12 (Bassen, Hatcher) Third Period: D-Reid 13 (Sydor, Harvey) 9, Los Angeles, Stevens 10 (Perreault) Shots on goal: L.A.- 3-5-9—17. D-14-17-8—39. Goalies: L.A.-Dafoe, Fiset. D-Irbe.

San Jose	2	0	0—2
Vancouver	2	1	2—5

First Period: S.J.-Nicholls 10 (McSorley, Ragnarsson). 2, V-Mogilny 20 (Gelinas, Auciin) 3, S.J., Goolla 3 (Ragnarsson) 4, V-Gelinas 11 (Roberts, Mogilny) Second Period: V-Courtnall 6 (Stillinger, McLean) Third Period: V-Ridley 14 (Nasland, Bahonos) 7, V-Bure 21, Shots on goal: S.J.- 15-11-8—34. V- 8-5-17—30. Goalies: S.J.-Belfour. V-McLean.

CRICKET

WEST INDIES TOUR
4TH TEST MATCH
AUSTRALIA VS. WEST INDIES
TUESDAY, IN ADELAIDE

West Indies first innings: 130 in 47.5 overs; second innings: 204 all out.
Australia first innings: 517 all out from 162.3 overs (Overnight 434 for five)
Australia won by an innings and 183 runs.
Australia won series 3-1.

ENGLAND TOUR
1ST TEST MATCH
NEW ZEALAND VS. ENGLAND
TUESDAY, IN AUCKLAND

New Zealand first innings: 390; Second innings: 248 for nine
England first innings: 521
New Zealand vs. England match ended in draw.

GOLF

LEADING WORLD RANKINGS

World rankings list published in London after Phoenix Open last weekend:

1. G. Norman (Aus.) 11.18 points average
2. Tom Lehman (U.S.) 9.94
3. Colin Montgomerie (Britain) 9.07
4. Ernie Els (South Africa) 8.95
5. Nick Faldo (Britain) 7.93
6. Masashi Ozaki (Japan) 7.58
7. Davis Love III (U.S.) 7.56
8. Fred Couples (U.S.) 7.30
9. Mark O'Meara (U.S.) 6.94
10. Corey Pavin (U.S.) 6.80
11. Phil Mickelson (U.S.) 6.76
12. Nick Price (Zimbabwe) 6.26
13. Steve Stricker (U.S.) 6.23
14. Scott Hoch (U.S.) 5.69
15. Mark McNulty (Zimbabwe) 5.63
16. Steve Ellington (Australia) 5.52
17. Bernhard Langer (Germany) 5.49
18. Steve Jones (U.S.) 5.37
19. Tom Watson U.S. 5.25
20. David Duval (U.S.) 5.15

SOCCER

SPANISH FIRST DIVISION

Valladolid 1 Real Betis 3

Standings: 1. Real Madrid 49, 2. Barcelona 46, 3. Real Betis 39, 4. Deportivo Corona 39, 5. Real Sociedad 37, 6. Atletico Madrid 35, 7. Valladolid 30, 8. Athletic Bilbao 32, 9. Racing Santander 30, 10. Tenerife 29, 11. Valencia 28, 12. Oviedo 26, 13. Celta Vigo 24, 14. Rayo Vallecano 23, 15. Espanyol 23, 16. Compostela 23, 17. Sporting Gijon 22, 18. Logrones 21, 19. Sevilla 18, 20. Hercules 18, 21. Zaragoza 15, 22. Extremadura 15.

TRANSITIONS

BASEBALL
MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL
AMERICAN LEAGUE

BOSTON—Agreed to terms with OF Troy O'Leary on 1-year contract.
CHICAGO—Agreed to terms with RHP Roberto Hernandez on 1-year contract.
OAKLAND—Acquired OF Jose Canseco from the Boston for RHP John Wasdin and cash considerations.

NATIONAL LEAGUE

NEW YORK—Agreed to terms with RHP Dave Mlicki on 1-year contract.

BASKETBALL
NATIONAL BASKETBALL ASSOCIATION

PHILADELPHIA—Activated F Mark Davis from injured list.

FOOTBALL
NATIONAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE

DENVER—Signed S Tony Veland, OT John Jones and CB Jamal Ellis.
SAN DIEGO—Signed LB Grant Carter to 3-year contract and G Matt Brown to 1-year contract.
TAMPA BAY—Signed WR Gregory Spann to 2-year contract.

HOCKEY
NATIONAL HOCKEY LEAGUE

CHICAGO—Traded G Ed Belfour to San Jose Sharks for G Chris Terrer, D Michal Sykora, F Ulf Dahlen and 1998 conditional draft choice. Signed G Jeff Hackett to 3-year contract extension.
NEW YORK ISLANDERS—Announced that Mike Milbury, general manager, has relinquished his coaching duties. Named Rick Bowness coach.
PITTSBURGH—Traded RW Tomas Sandstrom to Detroit for C Greg Johnson.

COLLEGE

NCAA—Suspended University of Connecticut basketball C Kirk King for the remainder of season for accepting an airline ticket from sports agent and lying about his conduct. Suspended University of Connecticut basketball G Ricky Moore for five games for accepting an airline ticket.
SAN DIEGO STATE—Suspended F Jacob Thompson for two games for violation of team rules.
SOUTHERN ILLINOIS—Named Jan Quarless football coach.

SPORTS

New Man on Blackhawks Checks In With a Winner

The Associated Press

Ulf Dahlen made an immediate impact for the Chicago Blackhawks.

Playing in his first game since Chicago acquired him in a weekend trade with San Jose, Dahlen scored the winning goal in Monday night's 2-1 victory over the Rangers in New York.

Dahlen scored off a pass from Tony Amonte at 3:32 of the third period. Amonte, who had scored the tying goal earlier in the period, carried the puck behind the net and fed Dahlen in front of the goal for the game-winner.

"If I missed that shot, it would have been embarrassing," Dahlen said. "Tony made the play — I just put it into an empty net."

Dahlen, goaltender Chris Terreri and defenseman Michal Sykora were sent to Chicago on Saturday for goalie Ed Belfour. Dahlen's goal helped Chicago snap a five-game losing streak.

"We felt pretty confident going into the third period," Amonte said. "We felt we were getting some chances, and we just had to keep going to the net."

The Rangers blew a lead for the fifth time this season when leading after the second period.

"It's a game we should have won," Wayne Gretzky said. "It was very discouraging we didn't."

Canucks 5, Sharks 2 At Vancouver, Russ Courtnall scored the go-ahead goal in the second period as the Canucks spoiled Belfour's debut with the Sharks. Belfour made 25 saves, but gave up three goals on the Canucks' first nine shots.

Avalanche 5, Maple Leafs 2 At Toronto, Adam Deadmarsh scored the go-ahead goal early in the third period, and the Colorado Avalanche went on to beat the Maple Leafs. Deadmarsh stole a cross-ice pass by Jamie Baker and beat goalie Felix Potvin with a wrist shot at the 2:17 mark to put Colorado ahead 3-2.

Senators 5, Lightning 3 At Kanata, Ontario, Alexei Yashin scored two goals as Ottawa beat Tampa Bay. Daniel Alfredsson had a goal and two assists for Ottawa, which also got goals from Tom Chorske and Randy Cunneyworth.

Stars 7, Kings 2 At Dallas, Mike Modano scored two power-play goals as the Stars got a rare home victory. Dallas scored five times in the second period, including goals by Derian Hatcher and Benoit Hogue in a 64-second span. The Stars have the league's best road record (16-7-2), but were 2-4-0 in their previous six games at Reunion Arena.

Mighty Ducks 4, Blues 1 At St. Louis, Teemu Selanne scored two goals, and Guy Hebert made 38 saves as Anaheim ended the Blues' four-game winning streak. Dimitri Mironov put the Mighty Ducks ahead 2-1 at 16:05 of the second period, scoring after goalie Grant Fuhr had blocked a shot by Paul Kariya.

NHL Roundup

■ Coach Denies Assault Charge

Former NHL defenseman Gerry Hart denied charges that he punched a player and referee after a youth league tournament game in which he had coached, The Associated Press reported from Smithfield, Rhode Island.

Hart, 49, was suspended as coach of a Long Island team after being charged with two counts of simple assault following the incident Saturday night at Smithfield Rink.

Hart said he never punched anyone.

"There was no assault. There was nobody hurt," he told the Providence Journal-Bulletin on Monday. "I'm very comfortable with the way I responded to this thing. What I attempted to do was resolve this in an appropriate way."

Hart played for four teams in 15 NHL seasons, mostly the New York Islanders, who are based near where he now lives.

The incident occurred after Hart's Suffolk County Police Athletic League team lost, 9 to 1, to a squad from Syracuse, New York.

According to the police, the teams were shaking hands at center ice when Hart punched a Syracuse player who had complained that one of Hart's players had punched him. Hart then punched a referee who interceded, the police said.

Peter Jones/Reuters

The Senators' Christer Olsson tripping Shawn Burr of the Tampa Bay Lightning during Ottawa's victory.

Wise Old Head From Senegal Leads Hoyas To an Upset

The Associated Press

A pep talk from the Wise Old Head helped motivate Georgetown to its biggest victory of the college basketball season.

Upset about a slump that had seen the Hoyas lose four of their previous five games, the team's captain, Ya Ya Dia, issued a challenge to his teammates before Monday night's game against 14th-ranked Villanova.

"I was just telling them that it's in the middle of a time like this that a man finds out who he is," said the forward, who was born in Senegal and got his nickname through his steady leadership of a team filled with freshmen and sophomores.

"And I told them that tonight we'll find out a lot about the character of this team, and we definitely did. This team's got a lot of heart."

After Dia's mini-sermon, the Hoyas went out and did three things they haven't done in weeks: They jumped to an early lead, made a decent percentage of their free throws and didn't get psyched out when the other team made a big run.

College Basketball

The result: A 78-67 upset that kept alive the Hoyas' tenuous hopes for an NCAA tournament bid.

Georgetown (12-7, 5-6 Big East) made five of its first six shots to jump to an 11-2 lead and did not fold when Villanova ate up all but four points of a 21-point Georgetown lead in the second half.

The Wildcats (15-5, 6-4) trailed 41-20 when Ed Sheffey of Georgetown opened the second half with a three-pointer. But Villanova went on a 17-0 run to get within 41-37 with 14:21 to play as the Hoyas suddenly looked more like the team that has already equaled a school season record by losing three Big East games at home.

Jahidi White, reasserting the authority the 290-pound (130-kilogram) center had been lacking most of the season, answered Villanova's run with a monster dunk, and Victor Page added two free throws to restore Georgetown's lead to 45-37 with 13:30 left. Villanova closed the deficit to two points twice but never had the ball with a chance to tie or take the lead.

Page finished with 29 points on 9-for-22 shooting for the Hoyas, while Boubacar Aw and Daymond Jackson each had 10 points. Dia had 12 rebounds, two above his Big East-leading average.

Alvin Williams had 17 points, Tim Thomas 13 and John Celestand 11 for the Wildcats.

No. 4 Utah 84, No. 21 Tulsa 58 In Salt Lake City, Michael Doleac scored 18 points and Andre Miller had 17 as Utah trounced Tulsa.

The Utes (14-2, 6-0) remained in first place in the Mountain Division of the Western Athletic Conference.

Utah's star, Keith Van Horn, did not score in the first half. The 6-foot-10 forward finished with 12 points on 3-for-15 shooting, including two missed dunks.

Shea Seals led Tulsa (15-5, 5-1) with 16 points. But the normally high-scoring guard made only four of 12 shots and did not get his first basket until 14:40 was left in the game.

Graf Returns to Tennis After Father's Conviction

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

TOKYO — Steffi Graf returned to tennis Tuesday after one of the worst weeks of her life and appeared to be in great form as she won an exhibition doubles match with Pam Shriver.

Shrugging off fears that her game might suffer after her father's conviction on tax evasion charges, the world's top-ranked women's tennis player and her American partner demolished their Japanese opponents, Kyoko Nagatsuka and Yuka Yoshida, 8-0, in a match limited to two service games per player.

Graf, who is in Tokyo to play in the Pan Pacific Women's Open, showed few signs of lingering effects from a toe infection and heat exhaustion that contributed to her surprise fourth-round defeat last week in the Australian Open in Melbourne.

Under investigation herself in the tax affair, Graf is the top seed in the Pan Pacific and received a first-round bye in the singles of the $926,250 event. She will play Lisa Raymond of the United States in the second round on Wednesday.

She dodged questions Tuesday about her father's conviction, rushing out of Tokyo Metropolitan Gymnasium after the match without talking to reporters.

A court in Mannheim, Germany, sentenced Peter Graf on Friday to three years and nine months in jail for evading tax amounting to 12 million marks ($7.3 million) on his daughter's earnings.

On Tuesday, the Olympic champion Lindsay Davenport routed Wang Shi-ting of Taiwan, 6-1, 6-2. Davenport, coming off a fourth-round loss to fellow a American, Kimberly Po, in the Australian Open, will face Tamarine Tanasugarn of Thailand in a second-round match Thursday.

"Anytime when you come indoors, it's a lot easier," said Davenport, seeded sixth. "In Australia, we had a lot of wind, bright sun. But it's a very fast court."

The second-seeded Australian Open winner, Martina Hingis of Switzerland, also received a first-round bye along with third-seeded Conchita Martinez of Spain and fourth-seeded Anke Huber of Germany. Hingis, 16, the youngest Grand Slam winner in 110 years, begins play Wednesday against Gloria Pizzichini of Italy.

Po, who will play Huber in the second round, said: "This is a good opportunity for me. My goal has been to try to play a lot of top players because the more you play them, I think, the better you will become."

Grizzlies Grin and Bear It on Defense

The Associated Press

Since he took over as Vancouver's coach last week, Stu Jackson has been emphasizing that success will come only when the Grizzlies play solid defense.

That message worked for most of the first half against the Golden State Warriors on Monday night, but not after halftime.

Latrell Sprewell had 33 points and tied a career high with 11 assists, and Joe Smith added 30 points as the Warriors hit 19 of their first 23 shots in the second half to break open a close game and win, 122-97, in San Jose, California.

"Defensively, we broke down in the second half," Jackson said.

"If we're going to have a defensive mindset, we're going to have to come up with it every quarter. And I don't think we're prepared to do that yet."

Shareef Abdur-Rahim had 23 points and 8 rebounds for the Grizzlies, who have lost 10 of their last 11.

Anthony Peeler added 21 points for the Grizzlies, who are 0-2 since Brian Winters was fired and replaced as coach last week by Jackson, the general manager.

NBA Roundup

The Grizzlies are among the league's worst defensive teams, and Jackson wants significant improvement before the end of the season.

The victory avenged the Warriors' most embarrassing defeat of the season. They lost at home by 14 points to the Grizzlies this month, one of only two Vancouver road successes this season.

Heat 125, Suns 97 Miami shot 63.2 percent, a franchise record and the best effort in the NBA this season, to beat Phoenix. The victory was Miami's first against Phoenix at home. The Suns were 9-0 previously at Miami Arena since the Heat joined the league in 1988.

The Heat's point total and margin of victory were team season highs. Miami broke the franchise shooting record of 62.4 percent set against New York in February 1990.

The previous best record in the NBA this season was by Indiana, which hit 61.3 percent at Vancouver on Dec. 4.

Oakland Reunites Baseball's Bash Brothers

The Associated Press

OAKLAND, California — The Oakland Athletics, who have spent the past few seasons trying to recreate their powerhouse teams of the late 1980s, have reached back to the past again.

The A's reunited the Bash Brothers on Monday by trading for Jose Canseco, who with Mark McGwire formed one of baseball's most explosive combos in the late 1980s and early 1990s.

Oakland got Canseco and cash from the Boston Red Sox for the right-handed pitcher John Wasdin. The cash will be used to pay part of Canseco's $4.5 million base salary this season.

With Canseco and McGwire combining for 200 homers from 1988 to 1990, the A's won three straight AL pennants. Canseco had five seasons of more than 30 homers for Oakland, including 44 in 1991 and 42 in 1988.

"If McGwire and myself can stay healthy the whole year, I think definitely we're going to win our division," Canseco said in a call from his home in Miami. "Potentially we can lead the league in home runs."

Hampered by back, hip and hamstring problems, Canseco missed nearly 40 percent of Boston's games since the Red Sox acquired him in 1994 as their designated hitter.

"We have significantly improved our lineup," the A's general manager, Sandy Alderson, said. "Our five core hitters — Canseco, McGwire, Geronimo Berroa, Scott Brosius and Jason Giambi — are as good as any in the league."

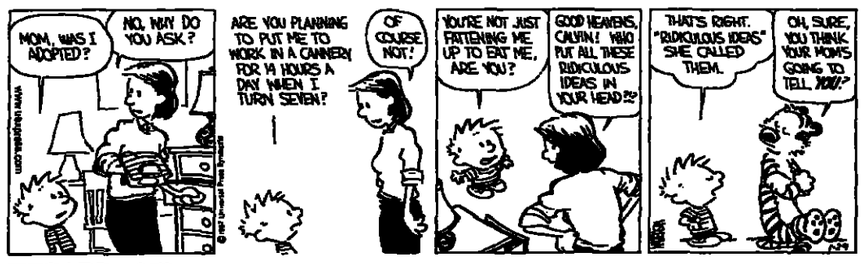
Open Wallet
-tro Cuba
Oppose
Mediation

DENNIS THE MENACE

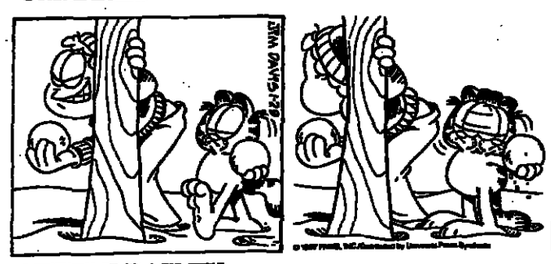
"WOW! THIS IS BETTER'N A YARD SALE!"

PEANUTS

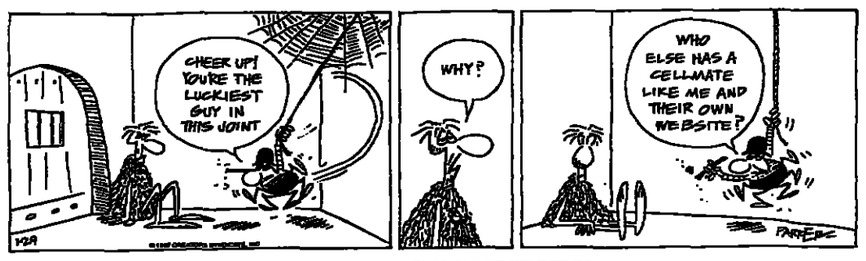
CALVIN AND HOBBES



GARFIELD



WIZARD of ID



BEETLE BAILEY

THE FAR SIDE

"Here are the blueprints. Now look: This is going to be the *Liberty* Bell, so we obviously expect that it be forged with great diligence and skill."

DOONESBURY

BLONDIE

JUMBLE

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by Henri Arnold and Mike Argirion

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

BROEP
MALFE
BOEDUL
FREDOK

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Print answer here: A

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: JUDGE CLOAK NIBBLE MALICE
Answer: The telephone operator volunteered her job — A "CALLING"

In France we cover traveling people of your passion, a chateau... a top quality leisure Car... A personalized service...
SER'CENT
JAYLO

OBSERVER

The New Out Crowd

By Russell Baker

NEW YORK — People who live in trailers are now learning what it used to feel like to be Episcopalians. It used to be — remember? — that Episcopalians were the only group of Americans left about whom it was O.K. to joke. Then Episcopalians got their backs up.

If you make an Episcopalian joke nowadays, or even sneer subtly at the food served in country clubs, the home offices of after-hours Episcopalianism, you invite reprimand as an insensitive bigot.

Well, what is a great nation to do without an identifiable group of its own citizens to feel superior to? Welcome to the great American trailer park. Sometimes called a "trailer court." Until the Episcopalians became off-limits for jokes and sneers, trailer people were widely admired and respected for their cunning.

□

Many localities levied no real-estate tax on house trailers. A shrewd tax dodger could drive his house into a thriving town, park it and enjoy the advantages of home ownership without the disadvantages of tax bills.

When too many parked cheek by jowl and their children started overcrowding the schoolhouse, the town would find ways to tax wheeled houses, and dedicated tax dodgers would move on.

Low upkeep attracted low-income householders. Less fragile low-cost housing — the kind your grandparents may have lived in — has long been priced beyond the reach of low-income people. Not surprisingly, the trailer park began to replace the housing development of the 1950s where houses sold for $7,500.

Now, though, living in a trailer begins to invite public scorn. Paula Jones, suddenly famous for her sexual-harassment case against the president, is belittled by the president's sympathizers as a trailer-park type. And here's a letter in my mail from a man who is down on "the sleazy pimps in the media." People like him, he says, "may only be simple country folk, unsophisticated and prole, but we're 100 percent better than the trailer-trash sluts that inhabit the White House."

Maybe people who live in low-cost housing are doomed always to be fair game for abuse. I recall abusing them myself in the late 1940s.

During the war thousands of unskilled workers had flocked into Baltimore for jobs in weapons plants that worked around the clock. Many came from the mountains of Virginia and West Virginia, and their mountaineer life styles were laughed at and deplored by all Baltimoreans, especially people like me, though I lived in a second-floor walkup in which cockroaches were eating the wallpaper paste right off the walls.

"Hillbillies," I called them. Everybody called them "hillbillies," and everybody deplored them. The problem was that the "hillbillies" had moved en masse into declining middle-class neighborhoods, driving out the middle-class residents. When they finally made the neighborhood theirs, what could a self-respecting Baltimorean do but sneer at them?

As Americans now sneer at trailer-park people. We may have been nicer when we zinged Episcopalians. Hardened by years of eating country-club food, they could sneer back with gusto.

New York Times Service

The Eclectic Kevin Kline, Slightly Less Nasty

By Alan Riding
New York Times Service

LONDON — Kevin Kline grows edgy as the conversation shifts from such harmless topics as Shakespeare and Gilbert and Sullivan to the nitty-gritty of his movie career.

It is not a subject he relishes discussing. He has made memorable films and forgettable films. And now, at the age of 49, enjoying the security of family life and plenty of work, he likes to take things as they come. Yet he continues to be plagued by his reputation as a fine actor who wins less recognition than he deserves.

His friend the comic actor and writer John Cleese likes to tease him about it, complaining that he turns down major roles that would make him "a star" ("He's known in Hollywood as Kevin D. Kline") and that he cannot make up his mind ("He's the only actor I know who played Hamlet in order to learn to be decisive").

Others in the business tell him that instead of playing a wide range of roles, he should concentrate on comedy. Kline, slim and youthful-looking, groans. He is tired of being advised on his career.

Still, he is happy about his new movie, "Fierce Creatures," because, as he puts it, he has followed his instinct to "do what feels right." Almost a decade after playing his most acclaimed comic role as the manic Otto in "A Fish Called Wanda," he has teamed up again with Cleese, Jamie Lee Curtis and Michael Palin in what they term "an equal not a sequel" to the original hit.

In other words, Otto, who brought Kline an Oscar in 1989 for best supporting actor, is not being resuscitated, but the old gang is. "They are older, they are richer, they are fatter, and they are back," Cleese proclaims.

Kline, sitting in Cleese's production office in West London during a break in filming "Fierce Creatures," said: "I think it's kinder. John has mellowed. It's not as nasty or mean a movie as 'Wanda.'"

Certainly, in the screenplay by Cleese and the former film critic Iain Johnstone, Kline's role is less nasty. He plays Vince McCain, the amoral son of Rod McCain, a greedy New Zealand-born media mogul. Kline is also Rod, playing father and son not as look-alike characters (as he did in "Dave," in which he portrayed an American president and his double) but as two men glaring at each other across the generation gap, Vince waiting for Rod to die and make him rich, Rod hoping Vince will just disappear.

The plot has the Atlanta-based Rod (Rod Almighty, to his underlings) dispatching a former Hong Kong policeman, Rollo Lee (Cleese), to run an English zoo, with orders to earn 20 percent profits. Rollo's solution is a "fierce creatures" policy" ("a lethal weapon in every cage"); all other animals will be sold or shot. Vince arrives with Willa Weston (Curtis) to institute "multiple facility merchandising" — plastering ads on the animals' cages. Then Rod shows up to confront Vince, and Kline's comic talents rise to the occasion.

But fans of Kline the comic actor may be disappointed by his turn to less antic parts in his next two films. In Ang Lee's "Ice Storm," scheduled for release later this year, Kline said by telephone from New York, he plays the "father of a highly dysfunctional family" confused by the sexual revolution of the early 1970s. And in Frank Oz's "In and Out," currently in production, he plays a gay high school English teacher outed inadvertently by a former student.

David Appleby

Kline in "Fierce Creatures," an equal not a sequel.

Indeed, 15 years after appearing opposite Meryl Streep in Alan Pakula's "Sophie's Choice," Kline continues to take pride in his eclectic taste in movie roles, a pride that some friends view as a stubborn refusal to reach for greater fame.

"I don't think he has always made the best choices on the films he has done," Cleese said. "But he is sort of resolutely noncommercial. That's very praiseworthy in a way. But I think that in many cases his performances have been better than the films."

Between more sighs, Kline, who exudes intelligence and culture, feels it is time to explain what he calls his "very primitive, not cerebral, not intellectualized" approach to acting.

"I have turned down terrific roles in terrific films and I have never had the slightest regret about doing so," he said. "What's not right for me now doesn't interest me. I can't do it if there is not some little spark that says, 'That would be good right now.' And there are lots of scripts that I know, going in, are not commercial. So the things that govern my choices are not what is going to be successful in the American success-equals-money-equals-popularity way."

Still, for all his commitment to the art of acting, his first calling was music. His father owned a record store in St. Louis, and he majored in music at Indiana University. But then he switched, first studying at the Juilliard drama school in New York and later becoming a founding member of John Houseman's Acting Company. It was then, in the mid-1970s, that he learned the delights of variety.

"We did five or six plays in repertory," he recalled. "One night it would be Gorky; one night it's Shakespeare. And in these plays, you weren't always the romantic lead man or the old character actor or the funny guy. It was about acting. It wasn't about personality."

His musical background — and a pleasant bass-baritone voice — came in handy. Making his Broadway debut in 1978 as the movie idol Bruce Granit in Harold Prince's musical "On the 20th Century," he won his first Tony Award. Two seasons later, another Tony came his way when he starred as the Pirate King in Joseph Papp's version of Gilbert and Sullivan's "Pirates of Penzance."

Kline did his first screen acting in the film version of this operetta, although it was "Sophie's Choice," released first, that got his movie career off the ground.

Since then, he has had his ups and downs. In 1983, with "The Big Chill," an unexpected hit, he began a relationship with the director Lawrence Kasdan that has brought them together in four more films: "Silverado," "I Love You to Death," "Grand Canyon" and "French Kiss."

Among his other films are "Cry Freedom" and "Princess Caraboo," in which Kline appears with Phoebe Cates, his actress wife and the mother of his two children.

Yet, while "A Fish Called Wanda" won him an Academy Award, it is Kline's work in theater that has given him the aura of an exceptional actor. In the 1980s, he was acclaimed for his role as Captain Bluntschli in Shaw's "Arms and the Man" at Circle in the Square on Broadway. And his production of "Hamlet" — he directed and starred — at New York's Public Theater in 1990 was well received.

"Kline's not just great," said Ian Judge, a director at the Royal Shakespeare Company. "No one else can play tragedy and comedy like he can. He's the only successor to Olivier."

HIT THERAPY

Marketing Martian Makes Broadway Debut

By Paula Span
Washington Post Service

NEW YORK — Close to half the audience at the Broadway opening of "Men Are From Mars, Women Are From Venus" — two-and-a-half hours of show-biz-plus-couples-therapy from the self-help author John Gray — didn't seem at all sure they wanted to be there.

Guess which half.

Rick Ramirez, an engineer from San Diego, was there because his girlfriend, Barbara Wolf, a New Jersey billing clerk, had persuaded him to come. "She convinced me that it would be good for our relationship," he said a tad grimly.

New Yorker Sal Ilacqua was there because his girlfriend, Linda Blakely, thought it would be an interesting evening. "There's a message here that doesn't excite me," he said, also a skeptic.

A Brooklyn dentist, Eva Fidel, said she had wanted to push her husband into reading the books, "so I took him by surprise and bought tickets." Was he sorry he'd come? "Not so far," said David Fidel. Of course, the curtain had yet to rise.

Not content with selling 10 million copies of "Men Are From Mars . . . ," which is nearing Year 4 on the New York Times best-seller list, Gray has taken over the Gershwin Theatre, Broadway's largest, for a week.

For the author, there's a certain logic to all this. His "act" is a highly condensed version of the weekend improve-your-relationship programs he's run for 20 years. While his seminars have always mixed humor with how-to, "they've gotten funnier and funnier," he said in a phone interview last week. "People keep saying, 'You should do this on a stage. This is a show.'"

During the show's first half, Gray performs what he calls "my stand-up" — riffs about gender differences so profound that the theme of his best-seller is that men and women may as well have originated on separate planets. Some nights he might do the bit about varying sexual response (men are like blowtorches; women are like ovens, in need of 20 minutes' preheating). On opening night he cracked jokes about the most sacred holidays for Martians (Super Bowl Sunday) and for Venusians (Valentine's Day). There had been brief talk of a song, too, but that idea died fast: Gray sings at his seminars, but Broadway, after all, is Liza's turf.

Ari Mintz/The Washington Post

Author Gray taking his turn on stage.

After intermission, he brings audience members up to . . . share. Some are ordinary schmoes who paid up to $55 a ticket; some are invited celebrities.

"When Cindy Crawford tells the story of her intimate relationships" — as she did at Gray's recent Los Angeles gig — "people really, really listen," he explains. Opening night here, the semi-famous participants included soap star Linda Dano and tabloid columnist Cindy Adams.

Of course, there already is a Broadway show that makes sport of gender differences: A few blocks away "Defending the Caveman," written and originally performed by Rob Becker, is in its "third smash year," as the ads say. Both shows are going on the road: Becker's headed to Washington and Norfolk next month, leaving the television star Michael Chiklis (late of "The Commish") to perform in New York; Gray will launch a two-year tour this spring of the kind of arenas that rock bands play, with 6,000 to 10,000 seats. The big difference is, Becker is a comic. Gray is an industry.

A highly synergistic industry. A call to one of several 800 numbers in the back of his book connects you to his business office in Phoenix. "Thank you for calling Personal Growth Productions," the recording coos. "To attend a seminar, press 1. . . . To request a personal appearance by John Gray, press 3. . . . If you'd like information about becoming a Mars and Venus counselor, press 6. . . ."

Besides the basic seminars, Gray peddles an extensive line of audio and videotapes, mostly via infomercial, though they were also selling briskly in the Gershwin's lobby at $120 a set. He sells lovey-dovey vacations. "Right now we're focusing on Paris," he said last week. "Very romantic, very reasonable — $599 for a week in Paris, and you get a Mars and Venus workshop while you're there."

He's launched the Mars & Venus Institute, which trains Grayish "facilitators," and the Mars & Venus Counseling Centers, which refer clients to Gray-savvy therapists across the country. All of which promote, and are promoted by, the four titles ("Mars and Venus in the Bedroom," "Mars and Venus Together Forever," etc.) and the $10 calendar that HarperCollins publishes.

The Broadway show has not sold out, but with a cast of one, plus one pianist playing schmaltzy tunes between acts, it will probably make a bundle anyway.

At intermission, some of the guys said they were happy they'd come. "Was he talking only to us?" wondered Morris Ligorski, an anesthesiologist, whose wife had surreptitiously bought tickets. "It's like we were his patients."

Paul Albicocco was less enthralled. "Now I've gotta prove that I'm not like everyone else," he said after 90 minutes of Gray's bits about maladaptive Martian behavior. "I've got homework! Like I don't have enough to worry about."

PEOPLE

THE British actor Jeremy Irons and China's best known film star, Gong Li, are to star in a film on Hong Kong's handover to China. "Chinese Box" will be directed by Wayne Wang, who was born in Hong Kong. Irons, star of such films as "Damage" and "The French Lieutenant's Woman," plays a journalist covering the handover to Beijing, which will take place at midnight June 30. The crew will film the events of the night for inclusion in the film, an insider said, commenting: "You couldn't get a much better backdrop than the real thing." Irons visited the local Foreign Correspondents Club for inspiration but was reportedly less than impressed by the members propping up the bar. Gong, whose credits include "Raise the Red Lantern" and "Farewell, My Concubine," will play Irons' love interest. Wang, whose recent efforts include "Smoke" and "Blue in the Face," is casting some local figures — journalists, businessmen and lawyers. The film is due for release late this year or in early 1998.

□

Michell Yeoh, Asia's queen of action films and a former Miss Malaysia, will star with Pierce Brosnan in the next James Bond picture, "Bond 18," United Artists announced. Yeoh, who got her start in a television commercial with the action star Jackie Chan, received international attention for her rapid-fire moves in Hong Kong-based thrillers such as "Yes, Madam," "Royal Warriors" and "The Magnificent Warriors." She also starred with Chan in the recent blockbuster "Supercop." A sportswoman of international ranking, Yeoh likes to perform all her own stunts, however dangerous.

□

It was the year of the woman at the American Music Awards and Toni Braxton reaped the bounty. Braxton won favorite female soul R&B artist and her "Secrets" was the top soul-R&B album. She also shared in an award that went to the "Waiting to Exhale" soundtrack, to which she was a contributor. Alanis Morissette also was a multiple winner, though she didn't show up. Morissette was named favorite pop-rock female artist and her "Jagged Little Pill" won the pop-rock album trophy. Two out of the three favorite new artist awards went to women as well: Jewel for pop-rock and LeAnn Rimes for country. In all, 20 trophies were awarded in the 24th annual ceremony. Tupac Shakur, who was gunned down in Las Vegas four months ago, was posthumously named favorite rap-hip hop artist. Pop rock winners included Eric Clapton as favorite male artist and Hootie & The Blowfish as favorite band, duo or group. Favorite artist winners in other categories included Metallica in hard rock-heavy metal, Smashing Pumpkins in alternative music, and Whitney Houston in adult contemporary.

Peter Parks/Agence France-Presse

Irons on the set of "Chinese Box" in Hong Kong.

Julia Roberts and Mel Gibson have been chosen woman and man of the year by Harvard's Hasty Pudding theater club, the oldest undergraduate drama club in the United States. Roberts will lead a parade through Harvard Square on Feb. 13 with Harvard students in drag; Gibson will appear Feb. 18 at the opening night of the troupe's annual theatrical production. The Hasty Pudding awards are given to performers who have made a "lasting and impressive contribution to the world of entertainment." Previous recipients include Elizabeth Taylor and Paul Newman.

□

The Art Institute of Chicago has acquired a rare early photograph of the black anti-slavery leader Frederick Douglass, which it plans to exhibit beginning in September. The portrait, which the museum bought at auction for $185,000, was unknown until last year. It is believed to have been taken in 1852.

□

A group of Michigan factory workers who were preparing for impending layoffs reported to work as usual this week, even after a lottery ticket they bought won a $46 million jackpot. Shirley Johnson said that she and her lucky co-workers would continue to work "until we get our pink slips." Kellogg Industries Co., a surgical and orthopedic supplies plant in Jackson, Michigan, notified its 85 workers in November that it would close the 90-year-old factory and transfer production to a newer plant in California. Two weeks ago, some of the workers formed a lottery club and bought 19 tickets for the "Big Game" multi-state lottery.

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Ireland	1-800-550-000
Italy◆	172-1011
Netherlands◆	06-022-9111
Russia◆▲(Moscow)†	755-5042
Spain○	900-99-00-11
Sweden	020-795-011
Switzerland◆	0800-89-0011
United Kingdom▲	0800-89-0011
MIDDLE EAST	
Egypt◆(Cairo)†	510-0200
Israel	177-100-2727
Saudi Arabia○	1-800-10
AFRICA	
Ghana	0191
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